## PROCEEDINGS - 12/28/2016

Pages 1-85  Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing  420 Harvard Street Comprehensive Permit Application  420 Harvard Associates, LLC  December 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.  Brookline Town Hall  Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky  Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky	1	Volume XI
Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing  420 Harvard Street Comprehensive Permit Application  420 Harvard Associates, LLC  December 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.  Brookline Town Hall  Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky  Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky  Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky	2	Pages 1-85
5 420 Harvard Street Comprehensive Permit Application 6 420 Harvard Associates, LLC 7 December 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. 8 Brookline Town Hall 9 333 Washington Street, 6th Floor 10 Brookline, Massachusetts 02445 11 12 13 14 15 Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	3	
6 420 Harvard Associates, LLC 7 December 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. 8 Brookline Town Hall 9 333 Washington Street, 6th Floor 10 Brookline, Massachusetts 02445 11 12 13 14 15 Reporter: Kristen C. Krakofsky 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	4	Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing
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                       APPEARANCES
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   Board Members:
   Jesse Geller, Chairman
 3
 4 Lark Palermo
 5
   Kate Poverman
 6 Johanna Schneider
 7
 8
   Town Staff:
9
   Maria Morelli, Senior Planner
10
   40B Consultant:
11
12
  Judi Barrett, Director of Municipal Services,
13
  RKG Associates, Inc.
14
15
   Applicant:
   Victor Sheen, 420 Harvard Associates, LLC
16
17
   Dartagnan Brown, Principal, EMBARC Studio, LLC
18
   Bob Engler, President, SEB
19
20
   Members of the Public:
21 Karen, Babcock Street
22
   Sloat Shaw, Thorndike Street
23
24
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS: 2 7:03 p.m. 3 MR. GELLER: Good evening, everyone. My 4 name is Jesse Geller. We are continuing our hearing 5 on 420 Harvard Street. Seated with me this evening 6 is the very quiet Lark Palermo, Johanna Schneider, 7 Jesse Geller, and Kate Poverman. 8 As people will recall, at our last hearing 9 we reviewed the waivers requests. We fine-tuned We also reviewed a draft decision and, in 10 that. 11 particular, reviewed suggested conditions. 12 For tonight's hearing we will once again 13 review the revised waiver list, and we will also pick up our discussion and review of the decision. 14 15 There was circulated, both this morning as well as 16 later in the afternoon, redline revisions to the 17 decision, so hopefully people who are interested 18 have had an opportunity to obtain that, and we'll 19 continue our discussion about that. 20 I also want to note for the record that 21 earlier today we did receive correspondence from 22 Dr. Pat Maloney giving certain recommendations
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pertaining to trash removal, storage. And in the

last iteration of the decision that was circulated

23

24

- 1 in draft form, there were incorporated into that
- 2 draft the recommendations that Dr. Maloney had made.
- 3 Maria, other administrative details?
- 4 MS. MORELLI: Yes. I just wanted to let
- 5 you know that we did ask -- the town did ask
- 6 MassHousing Partnership, which is the subsidizing
- 7 agency for this project, to look at the revised plans
- 8 now that there is an additional parcel -- a second
- 9 parcel that is included, and they've received a
- 10 letter. It was actually a copy of a letter to
- 11 Mr. Sheen and CC'd to the town dated December 28th
- 12 from MassHousing Partnership, David Hanafin.
- 13 And in summary, they have reviewed the
- 14 project. The letter they issued is to reaffirm and
- 15 update the project eligibility letter. That initial
- 16 letter was dated May 17, 2016. MHP has no problem
- 17 with the project consisting of two separate parcels.
- 18 And it's up to you if you want -- it's a two-page
- 19 letter -- if you want that read into the record. You
- 20 all have a copy of it in your packet.
- 21 MR. GELLER: Not necessary to read it.
- 22 Thank you.
- I understand you also have correspondence
- 24 on calculation of the height.

- 1 MS. MORELLI: Yes. So we received today,
- 2 December 28th, from the applicant's civil engineer,
- 3 Brendan McKenzie, dated today, and he just clarified
- 4 for the building commissioner how he calculated the
- 5 height of the building and what methodology he used
- 6 in the zoning code, that is Section 5.30.2A1.
- 7 And the building commissioner submitted a
- 8 memo, also dated today, that confirms that that
- 9 methodology is correct.
- 10 MR. GELLER: For the record, will you read
- 11 in also Dr. Maloney's letter, which is relatively
- 12 short, but I think is important.
- MS. MORELLI: Yes. To the zoning board of
- 14 appeals, December 28, 2016, from Patrick Maloney,
- 15 chief of environmental health services, regarding
- 16 420 Harvard Street 40B. This is in regard to the
- 17 proposed plans, rubbish and recycling.
- 18 "Please be advised that this department has
- 19 reviewed the above-noted project plans and offers the
- 20 following recommendations:
- 21 "For residential, the plans should upgrade
- 22 to eight 96-gallon toters for the building's
- 23 rubbish/recycling. The rubbish/recycling is proposed
- 24 to be picked up on a weekly basis." And I clarified

- 1 that is once weekly. "Should it found that
- 2 additional rubbish containment is needed, additional
- 3 toters shall be acquired. This is preferred than
- 4 increasing curbside pickup days, which can affect the
- 5 neighborhood.
- 6 "For commercial, the plan should upgrade to
- 7 four 96-gallon toter bins for handling commercial
- 8 tenants' trash/rubbish. Should it be found that
- 9 additional rubbish/recycling containment is needed,
- 10 additional toters shall be acquired.
- "The applicant has presented to the health
- 12 department that the retail tenants will be mostly
- 13 nonfood, office occupancy with the exception of a
- 14 limited retail food/coffee shop. No food will be
- 15 prepared on-site except coffee. This proposed
- 16 establishment will also require a food vendor permit
- 17 from the selectmen's office and a food permit from
- 18 the health department. Additional reviews by these
- 19 departments will occur at that time.
- 20 "Rubbish storage rooms for both
- 21 environments must be maintained in compliance with
- 22 state sanitary housing code requirements. The health
- 23 department would request to revisit the issue of
- 24 compliance when the property is 90 percent occupied

- 1 to ensure the approved measures are adequate."
- 2 MS. POVERMAN: I have a question. What is
- 3 the capacity difference, if any, between the
- 4 recommendation for eight 96-gallon toters and what
- 5 was previously recommended in terms of the two cubic
- 6 whatever.
- 7 MS. MORELLI: So for 40 Centre, 40 Centre
- 8 has a trash compactor. Trash compactors actually
- 9 require dumpsters. So what is spec'd there is
- 10 actually a 3 by 6 by 3 1/2 foot high dumpster, and it
- 11 can actually support a heavier load, because when you
- 12 have compressed or compacted trash, it's going to be
- 13 heavier. These toters are about 2 1/2 by 3 feet by
- 14 maybe -- I'm not sure how high they are. I think
- 15 4 feet.
- 16 MS. POVERMAN: Are they like regular
- 17 garbage cans, but bigger than we would have at our
- 18 curbs?
- 19 MS. MORELLI: Those dimensions that I just
- 20 gave you are the dimensions that I received from
- 21 Patrick Maloney, the 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 by 4 feet high.
- 22 They're going to be bigger than what we would have at
- 23 a single-family home.
- MS. POVERMAN: But do they carry the same

- amount of waste? 1
- 2 MS. MORELLI: What he has spec'd is
- 3 appropriate for the use that is proposed. The
- 4 difference is that this particular project does not
- 5 have a trash compactor.
- 6 MS. POVERMAN: I just want to point out
- 7 that 40 Centre Street does not have a compactor for
- 8 its recycling.
- 9 MS. MORELLI: They do have a trash
- 10 compactor. It's in the decision. I wrote the
- 11 decision. It's absolutely in there.
- 12 MS. POVERMAN: Oh, okay.
- 13 Okay. I just -- maybe this is not the time
- 14 to mention it, but something we had previously
- 15 discussed last week is that any trash generated by a
- 16 cafe or whatever would be separately segregated and
- 17 that's not provided in this --
- 18 MS. MORELLI: It is. In the revised
- decision --19
- 20 MS. POVERMAN: Where is it in the decision?
- MS. MORELLI: It is under Condition 15. 21
- 22 was -- this is something that we sent to you at 3:30
- 23 this afternoon, and the printout you have in front of
- you does reflect that addition. 24

- 1 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. I did not have a
- 2 chance to go through --
- MS. MORELLI: Understood. When we go
- 4 through the redline, we'll actually catch that.
- 5 MS. POVERMAN: Okay, great. Thanks.
- 6 MR. GELLER: Okay. Thank you.
- 7 So we're going to take the waiver list
- 8 first. Let me also note that when we get to the
- 9 decision and conditions, my understanding is that the
- 10 document has, at this point, been reviewed both by
- 11 our consultant extraordinaire as well as by town
- 12 counsel's office, and suggested changes have been
- 13 inserted into that document consistent with whatever
- 14 suggestions you and they had.
- 15 So on the variance list -- the waiver
- 16 list -- if people would just confirm -- either raise
- 17 questions or confirm that it's consistent with what
- 18 your understanding was from the last hearing.
- 19 MS. POVERMAN: On the first page, I still
- 20 don't understand No. 6, when a business district
- 21 abuts a T district. Is that a full sentence? First
- 22 page.
- MS. MORELLI: Oh, right. I didn't finish
- 24 that. That was a note to say that when a business

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district abuts a T district, there are different
 1
   requirements for the rear yard. I just wanted to
 2
 3
   note that.
 4
             MS. POVERMAN: Okay.
 5
             MR. GELLER: A.1 and 2?
 6
            MS. POVERMAN: Nothing.
 7
             MR. GELLER: C.1?
 8
             MS. SCHNEIDER: No.
 9
             MR. GELLER: D.2?
10
             MS. SCHNEIDER: No.
11
             MR. GELLER: E.1 and 2?
            MS. SCHNEIDER: No.
12
13
            MR. GELLER: F.2?
14
             MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
15
             MR. GELLER: G.1 and 2?
16
             MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
            MR. GELLER: H.1?
17
18
            MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
19
             MR. GELLER: I.1?
20
             MS. SCHNEIDER: Okay.
21
             MR. GELLER: J.1?
22
             MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
23
             MR. GELLER: K.1 and 2?
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MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

24

- 1 MR. GELLER: L.2?
- 2 MS. POVERMAN: Do we want to specify that
- 3 the relief is 18.83 feet for the amount of relief
- 4 being given?
- 5 MS. MORELLI: Well, it's stated under what
- 6 is -- in that column right before it, it states what
- 7 the max allowed is, 40 feet. So you can either
- 8 subtract it, or you specify it. It does make it
- 9 clear how -- what the delta is.
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: Okay.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: We're setting the maximum, 11
- right, so it wouldn't be any higher. 12
- 13 MR. GELLER: Right.
- 14 M.1 and 2?
- 15 MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
- 16 MR. GELLER: N.2?
- 17 MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
- MR. GELLER: 0.1 and 2? 18
- 19 MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
- 20 MR. GELLER: P.1 and 2?
- 21 MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
- 22 MR. GELLER: R.1 and 2?
- 23 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 24 MS. POVERMAN: The maximum height is 40

- 1 feet, isn't it?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 3 MS. POVERMAN: So 40 feet plus 18.83 feet
- 4 is 58 feet.
- 5 MS. SCHNEIDER: But that's the maximum
- 6 height of the project.
- 7 MS. POVERMAN: Right. So it says the
- 8 maximum development height -- the building height
- 9 will be 56.10 inches.
- MS. MORELLI: No. You have to look at what
- 11 I handed out today because I updated the --
- MS. POVERMAN: Okay.
- MS. MORELLI: I'm sorry. What I updated
- 14 and have before you -- just -- I noted in my cover
- 15 note that I updated the waivers to reflect the
- 16 height.
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Never mind.
- MS. MORELLI: There's a lot coming in at
- 19 the last minute, so I do apologize.
- 20 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Forget that.
- 21 MR. GELLER: 0.1 and 2?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
- 23 MR. GELLER: Q.1 and 2?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.

- 1 MR. GELLER: R.1 and 2?
- 2 MS. SCHNEIDER: Fine.
- 3 MR. GELLER: S.1 and 2?
- 4 MS. SCHNEIDER: Uh-huh.
- 5 MR. GELLER: T.
- 6 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 7 MR. GELLER: U.1 and 2?
- 8 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 9 MR. GELLER: W.1 and 2?
- 10 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 11 MR. GELLER: X.2?
- 12 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 13 MR. GELLER: Y.1 and 2?
- 14 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 15 MR. GELLER: Z.1 and 2.
- 16 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 17 MR. GELLER: AA.2?
- 18 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 19 MR. GELLER: BB.1 and 2?
- 20 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 21 MR. GELLER: CC.2?
- 22 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- 23 MR. GELLER: And DD.1 and 2?
- 24 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

- 1 MR. GELLER: Thank you.
- 2 All right. Let's take the decision. And
- 3 again, the version that I understand to be the most
- 4 recent was circulated today at approximately ten
- 5 minutes to four -- 3:35. Okay. So this is a redline
- 6 document.
- 7 Kate, I know you have lots of questions. I
- 8 don't know whether they're general or whether they're
- 9 specific to the conditions.
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: Some were typos, and I just
- 11 blame it on the fact that I assume we just didn't
- 12 have much time last time. But paragraph 3 --
- MR. GELLER: Paragraph 3 of --
- 14 MS. POVERMAN: First page, paragraph 3,
- 15 after "5,000," it says "square feet square feet," so
- 16 let's take out one "square feet."
- 17 MR. GELLER: How about if we add a comma
- 18 too.
- 19 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Just stylistic. You
- 20 have put in bold, "sheets and numbers, titles,
- 21 architectural plans." You may want to do that with
- 22 "comprehensive permit application or comprehensive
- 23 permit plans." Or not. I will leave that to you.
- So page 3, No. 5. Okay, so this may just

- 1 be something I don't know. "The applicant submitted
- 2 a request for waivers from local bylaws and
- 3 regulations and waivers key site plan." I'm not sure
- 4 what "waivers key site plan" was.
- 5 MS. MORELLI: Well, it's actually -- it is
- 6 a waivers key site plan. Maybe we can put a hyphen.
- 7 It was a site plan that showed where there were rear
- 8 yards, what was side yards.
- 9 MS. POVERMAN: How should it read?
- MR. GELLER: So was it used for purposes of
- 11 generating the waivers request?
- 12 MS. MORELLI: It just clarified what was
- 13 considered the corner lot, where the rear yard was.
- 14 So there were certain side yard --
- MR. GELLER: Did the plan have a title?
- 16 MS. MORELLI: It's a waivers key site plan.
- 17 MR. GELLER: That's what it is called on
- 18 the plan?
- MS. MORELLI: I believe so.
- MR. GELLER: Okay.
- MS. POVERMAN: So would we add "a waivers
- 22 key site plan, " or "the waivers key site plan"?
- MS. MORELLI: I would just put a hyphen and
- 24 call it "waivers-key site plan."

- 1 MR. GELLER: Whatever the name is on the
- plan and whatever the date is on the plan, that's 2
- 3 what you want.
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: And then 6, we just have to
- 5 be consistent with "applicant" capital A or not?
- 6 That's the last time I'm going to mention that.
- 7 Okay. Paragraph 12, in the part that says
- 8 in red, "of town department heads and independent
- 9 traffic peer reviewer," in addition we need to add,
- 10 "and an independent site and building design
- reviewer, " because we also relied on him. 11
- 12 And then after that, "in regard to matters
- 13 of, " -- add "site design, public health and safety,
- environmental," -- take out "and," -- "preliminary 14
- 15 stormwater management plans, and other issues of
- 16 local concern."
- 17 MS. MORELLI: Okay.
- 18 MS. POVERMAN: Capital A, "application" in
- 19 number 13.
- 20 Under Findings, paragraph 2, first
- 21 sentence, "The town has an ongoing, active program of
- 22 promoting: Low and moderate income housing."
- MR. GELLER: Can I disagree with you? 23
- 24 MS. POVERMAN: Well, no. Because you then

- 1 list a whole string of things: Promoting low and
- 2 moderate income housing including inclusionary
- 3 zoning, then it promotes financial and technical
- 4 assistance. You can disagree with me, but you're
- 5 wrong.
- 6 MS. BARRETT: I don't understand what the
- 7 issue is.
- 8 MR. GELLER: Whether you need a colon.
- 9 MS. POVERMAN: Because you're listing all
- 10 the things it promotes.
- 11 MS. PALERMO: It's punctuation. I think it
- 12 could be argued both ways. I'm happy with whatever
- 13 it says.
- 14 MR. GELLER: Leave it.
- MS. POVERMAN: I'm not talking about all
- 16 the commas that are missing either.
- 17 MS. PALERMO: I don't think that it's
- 18 confusing, really, the issue.
- MS. POVERMAN: 4, okay, just going through
- 20 the sentence. "On October 19, 2016, the applicant
- 21 submitted the project which proposes that at least
- 22 20 percent of the units would be available to
- 23 households" -- add an S -- "earning at or below
- 24 50 percent."

- Okay. This is a more significant one at
- 2 paragraph No. 6. "The site is within the Harvard
- 3 Street commercial district..." This is the first
- 4 time that the phrase "Harvard Street commercial
- 5 district" is used ever, as far as I can tell. I
- 6 Googled it. And I do not think it's appropriate to
- 7 use the term "Harvard Street commercial district"
- 8 because I don't want it acting as any sort of
- 9 precedent defining that that district extends from
- 10 the Boston/Brookline town line through Brookline
- 11 Village. I just think that it could be used in the
- 12 future, for example, by a developer or somebody else
- 13 to say, okay, this is a commercial district going
- 14 from, you know, Allston to Brookline Village, and I
- 15 don't think that's appropriate.
- 16 MR. GELLER: This is citation to Cliff's
- 17 report. How did Cliff refer to it?
- 18 MS. MORELLI: So he referenced that the
- 19 commercial properties are one-story tall. That was
- 20 really his --
- 21 MR. GELLER: But did he have a euphemism
- 22 for the area that he was looking at? I know he
- 23 referred to it geographically, but --
- 24 MS. MORELLI: He talked about Harvard

- 1 Street. He was talking about the commercial
- 2 properties, so it's either retail or commercial. But
- 3 he was referencing those properties, not any
- 4 residential --
- 5 MS. POVERMAN: There are residential
- 6 properties on Harvard Street.
- 7 MS. MORELLI: Yeah. He was talking about
- 8 the strong one-story retail streetscape.
- 9 MS. POVERMAN: Right. I don't want to use
- 10 that phrase. I think this should more properly read,
- 11 "Site is on Harvard Street. Harvard Street extends
- 12 from the Boston/Brookline town line to the area known
- 13 as Brookline Village and consists of structures
- 14 mostly one story tall."
- 15 MS. MORELLI: But that's not accurate
- 16 because you're only talking about retail that's one
- 17 story tall.
- 18 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. So "retail commercial
- 19 structures."
- 20 MS. SCHNEIDER: Commercial structures I
- 21 think is the best way.
- MS. POVERMAN: "Harvard Street extends from
- 23 the Boston town line and consists of residential
- 24 buildings" -- well, it's not just commercial

- 1 structures, so we can't say that. I mean, there are
- 2 three-story, you know, townhouses. I just don't
- 3 want --
- 4 MS. MORELLI: He was talking about the
- 5 retail being one story. The whole point is the one
- 6 story because that's what has a huge influence on how
- 7 this project got redesigned to read more strongly as
- 8 one story on Harvard Street with the residential
- 9 setback. That's the whole point.
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Then how can we find
- 11 a way of modifying it rather than giving the
- 12 impression that it totally consists of retail
- 13 structures, mostly one-story tall? "Consists
- 14 significantly or --
- MS. BARRETT: "Consistent part of
- 16 commercial structures, mostly one story tall."
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. "Consistent part
- 18 of -- "
- 19 MS. BARRETT: " -- commercial structures
- 20 that are mostly one story tall."
- 21 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. So just to go over
- 22 it, "The site is on Harvard Street. Harvard Street
- 23 extends from the Boston/Brookline town line to the
- 24 area known as Brookline Village and consists, in

- 1 part, of commercial structures that are mostly one
- 2 story tall."
- 3 And next, "The site extends into 'a'
- 4 two-family district, "not "the."
- 5 And paragraph 9, "The planning, Cliff
- 6 Boehmer, you never said who he is, and I think we
- 7 need to identify him.
- 8 MS. MORELLI: He's identified under, I
- 9 think, procedural --
- MS. POVERMAN: You list his name under 13
- 11 as an independent peer reviewer, so I think it would
- 12 be clearer to the reader, instead of going back and
- 13 figuring out who in the world is Cliff Boehmer, to
- 14 say, "the independent site and building design
- 15 reviewer." Because otherwise, it's kind of like,
- 16 what?
- MS. BARRETT: Well, he's the board's --
- MS. POVERMAN: Right. The town's, yes.
- 19 MS. BARRETT: I would just make that clear.
- 20 MS. POVERMAN: Going to the last line on
- 21 that page, "structure was incongruous with
- 22 architecturally coherent Harvard Street commercial
- 23 'buildings,'" instead of "district." Does everyone
- 24 agree with that?

- 1 MS. SCHNEIDER: Judi, is that an issue from
- 2 a 40B perspective in that we often talk about the
- 3 overall context? Not just buildings, but -- I mean,
- 4 I thought that defining this --
- 5 And, Kate, I understand your point. I'm
- 6 just wondering if by changing it to "district," which
- 7 I think implies, like, a contextual area to
- 8 buildings, if we're somehow talking something that
- 9 we --
- 10 MS. BARRETT: I would actually refer to
- 11 "area," not "district," because this is a permit, and
- 12 one could interpret that to mean a zoning district,
- 13 which it is not. So I would just say "commercial
- 14 area." I mean, that's, I assume, what it is.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Kate, are you comfortable
- 16 calling it an area as opposed to saying "building"?
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: "Architecturally coherent
- 18 Harvard Street" -- I don't want to say that all of
- 19 Harvard Street is commercial. I just don't want to
- 20 commit the board or Brookline to that.
- 21 MS. BARRETT: "Incongruous with the
- 22 architecturally coherent commercial area on Harvard
- 23 Street."
- MS. POVERMAN: "Commercial building on

- 1 Harvard Street, or "commercial architecture on
- 2 Harvard Street."
- 3 MS. MORELLI: I think what's coherent about
- 4 that street are the commercial properties.
- 5 MS. POVERMAN: Right. So "architecturally
- 6 coherent Harvard Street commercial properties."
- 7 MS. BARRETT: "Commercial properties on
- 8 Harvard Street." If you're trying not to say Harvard
- 9 Street's a commercial area, then I think what you
- 10 want to say is "commercial properties on Harvard
- 11 Street."
- I guess I'm not really sure what the issue
- 13 is here, but --
- MS. SCHNEIDER: I'm just asking if there is
- 15 an issue.
- 16 MS. BARRETT: I think it's fine to describe
- 17 the area because it's all part of why there was this
- 18 extended kind of effort to bring the project down to
- 19 make to it sit better in the neighborhood. So, you
- 20 know, I think it's fine.
- I worry when we get into this -- don't take
- 22 this the wrong way -- this kind of wordsmithing, that
- 23 there may be unintended consequences to the wording.
- 24 And I just generally don't think it's a good idea to

- 1 try to get this editorial.
- MS. POVERMAN: That's exactly my concern
- 3 about using "commercial area." It's being used too
- 4 broadly. Whereas if you make sure it's very
- 5 specific, then it can't be --
- 6 MS. BARRETT: Is there a commercial area on
- 7 Harvard Street?
- 8 MS. MORELLI: Its zone is L. It's a local
- 9 business district. Those properties are zoned, you
- 10 know, as L-1.0. What we're driving home is,
- 11 actually -- we're saying it's even more restrictive.
- 12 What you're doing is you're being less exclusive by
- 13 talking about all the different variations. We're
- 14 trying to drive home that it's a one-story commercial
- 15 area.
- MS. POVERMAN: Well, let me ask you this:
- 17 Is it L-1 all the way down Harvard Street?
- MS. MORELLI: I don't have my atlas map
- 19 here to just -- I don't know if there's, like, a
- 20 general business district that gets interwoven.
- 21 MS. BARRETT: Why don't you just say "the
- 22 small-scale commercial buildings on Harvard Street"?
- MS. POVERMAN: Yeah. That would be fine.
- MS. BARRETT: It's incongruous with the

- 1 small-scale commercial buildings on Harvard Street.
- 2 I think that's all you need to say.
- 3 MS. POVERMAN: How about "the small-scale
- 4 character of commercial buildings on Harvard Street"?
- 5 MS. BARRETT: "Character" is -- that's a
- 6 loaded -- "small-scale commercial buildings." I
- 7 don't know why that would be a problem, but, you
- 8 know, you know the area much better than I do, so I
- 9 sort of defer to the board. I'm just trying to help
- 10 you come up with --
- 11 MS. PALERMO: Kate, what is it in
- 12 particular that you're worried about?
- 13 MR. GELLER: She's worried that a
- 14 developer, down the road, will come back and say,
- 15 see, it is a commercial district. You said it's a
- 16 commercial district, and therefore I can put up this
- 17 big --
- 18 MS. PALERMO: I'm not familiar with a case
- 19 where a developer has used an opinion in a 40B case
- 20 to circumvent zoning. The only way a developer
- 21 circumvents local zoning bylaws --
- 22 (Multiple parties speaking.)
- 23 MS. PALERMO: This is not a court. This is
- 24 a decision involving --

- 1 MS. POVERMAN: It's a judicial body, and
- 2 there's no telling when your words are going to be
- 3 used against you.
- 4 MS. PALERMO: I actually disagree,
- 5 respectfully. I don't think it's necessary to go to
- 6 this level of wordsmithing. But in any event, we'll
- 7 go on.
- 8 MS. BARRETT: I think the concern was this
- 9 big building doesn't fit in this area because it's so
- 10 different from the buildings around it. I think that
- 11 was the point. Right? I would just say that and
- 12 move on, because I don't think --
- MS. POVERMAN: Okay. How about just,
- 14 "architecturally coherent Harvard Street"?
- MS. BARRETT: Well, I don't think that was
- 16 what he meant.
- 17 MS. MORELLI: "The planning board; Clifford
- 18 Boehmer, independent design reviewer; and local
- 19 residents expressed in written and oral comments
- 20 during the public hearing that the original project
- 21 was too massive and its site configuration and
- 22 parking infeasible, and architectural style and
- 23 building typology of the six-story apartment
- 24 structure was incongruous with the small-scale

- 1 commercial properties on Harvard Street and that the
- 2 original project had inadequate setback to the
- 3 abutting single- and two-family homes."
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: Thank you.
- 5 Paragraph 13, there was a comment on the
- 6 applicant's version.
- 7 MR. GELLER: Add a space between paragraph
- 8 11 and 12.
- 9 MS. POVERMAN: So on No. 16 it refers to
- 10 Mr. Ditto's letter. And I can't remember if he gave
- 11 oral testimony as well or if it was just a letter.
- 12 MS. MORELLI: I read his letter into the
- 13 record because he was not present that evening.
- MR. GELLER: Let me just add my pet peeve,
- 15 and that's when you have written submittals using the
- 16 word "stated."
- MS. MORELLI: Okay.
- 18 MR. GELLER: He's providing.
- 19 MS. POVERMAN: "Providing that the Fuller
- 20 Street driveway, as designed on the October 28, 2016,
- 21 plans." And I think it's superfluous to say, "in
- 22 conjunction with his recommendations to the board
- 23 presents" -- eliminate "no safety hazard to
- 24 pedestrians."

- 1 MS. MORELLI: So what is superfluous?
- MS. POVERMAN: "In conjunction with his 2
- 3 recommendations to the board."
- 4 MS. SCHNEIDER: Why do you think that's
- 5 superfluous? Because I think that we're building in
- 6 conditions to this decision that reflect -- which
- 7 modify or enhance the plans.
- 8 MS. POVERMAN: How about plans -- well,
- 9 where would you put them?
- 10 MS. SCHNEIDER: After "plans" and after
- "recommendations." 11
- 12 MS. POVERMAN: In conjunction with
- 13 recommendations. I would still take out the S after
- 14 present -- "presents no safety hazard."
- 15 MS. SCHNEIDER: But it's the Fuller Street
- 16 driveway that presents no safety hazard.
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Oh, okay. Thank you.
- 18 You're right. That changes it. Thank you.
- 19 Paragraph 19, four lines down -- well,
- 20 start at three lines down with the sentence starting
- 21 "Eliminating." "Eliminating the lot line would
- 22 trigger new noncompliance with zoning and make other
- 23 waiver requests" -- add an S to request -- "not
- applicable." 24

- 1 And No. 20 just --
- 2 MR. GELLER: 20 is the first substantive
- 3 comment.
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: Yeah, okay. All right.
- 5 Let's go.
- 6 MR. GELLER: So I think, conceptually, the
- 7 notion is that the use that would be allowed would be
- 8 soft food sales, which is to say that there can be no
- 9 cooking, venting, preparation on-site. The sole
- 10 exception being they can prepare coffee. Okay? So
- 11 that, conceptually, is what we're looking for, and
- 12 that should consistently be applied. You can either
- 13 define it as a specific term and then repeat it,
- 14 okay, "nonintensive cafe use," if you want --
- 15 whatever you want --
- 16 MS. SCHNEIDER: And I think in the
- 17 conditions this is spelled out in a little bit more
- 18 detail, and maybe we just want to import that
- 19 language to this paragraph.
- 20 MS. BARRETT: Cross-reference it here, see
- 21 condition whatever.
- MR. GELLER: So the idea is they can sell
- 23 food products that have been prepared off-site.
- MS. MORELLI: So if we were to put a period

- 1 after "production" and delete "including restaurants
- 2 and excluding cafes, " that would get to the point.
- 3 MS. POVERMAN: "Establishments such as
- 4 cafes that serve but do not prepare refreshments
- 5 shall be permitted."
- 6 MS. SCHNEIDER: But I do -- and again, I
- 7 don't mean to get too in the weeds on this, but I
- 8 quess this is a question for the applicant. I mean,
- 9 there are a lot of cafes where they'll heat a
- 10 croissant for you or they will, you know,
- 11 microwave --
- 12 MR. GELLER: That's not production.
- 13 MS. SCHNEIDER: But that's food
- 14 preparation, isn't is?
- MR. GELLER: No.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: No? Okay.
- 17 MR. GELLER: No. You sort of break it
- 18 into -- there are two kinds of the food retail
- 19 establishments. One is where there is food
- 20 preparation where they are cooking and venting, and
- 21 the other is the Dunkin' Donuts model, which is they
- 22 don't do anything. They hit the buttons on a
- 23 microwave.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Right, right. I just want

- 1 to make sure that we are not being overbroad in using
- 2 the words "food preparation" here.
- 3 MR. GELLER: I don't think so.
- 4 MS. SCHNEIDER: Okay.
- 5 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Number 21, so what's
- 6 stated is irrelevant. "The applicant," then cross
- 7 out "stated that parking on the site," so that it
- 8 reads, "The applicant will not" -- take out "be" --
- 9 "will not provide parking to customers of the
- 10 commercial spaces."
- 11 MS. SCHNEIDER: But I think -- but that's a
- 12 condition, which comes later. I think this
- 13 section -- I think it's hard to keep them straight,
- 14 but I think this section is about findings, so it's
- 15 about things that came out in the course of the
- 16 proceedings.
- MS. POVERMAN: Oh, okay.
- 18 (Multiple parties speaking.)
- 19 MS. SCHNEIDER: -- conditions, which are, I
- 20 think, more mandatory.
- 21 MS. POVERMAN: Got it. Thank you.
- MR. GELLER: 22, anything?
- MS. POVERMAN: No.
- MR. GELLER: Now, when you're referring to

- 1 "professional kitchens," again, I think -- right --
- 2 use of the commercial space will be mostly nonfood,
- 3 office occupancy with the exception of limited retail
- 4 food, coffee shop. No food is prepared on-site
- 5 except coffee.
- 6 MS. MORELLI: I'm just going to borrow
- 7 language from Dr. Maloney's letter.
- 8 MR. GELLER: Exactly.
- 9 Okay. Conditions.
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: Wait.
- 11 MS. BARRETT: No. You have the big
- 12 controversy, remember.
- MS. POVERMAN: 23, "The board" --
- MS. BARRETT: 24 through 27.
- MS. POVERMAN: Here's what I would do to
- 16 23: "The board heard concerns of the town staff,
- 17 boards, commissions, and residents and weighed them
- 18 against local needs. The board finds that the
- 19 project, as conditioned below, is consistent with
- 20 local needs as that term is defined."
- 21 Does anybody have a problem with that
- 22 change?
- MR. GELLER: Do it again.
- MS. POVERMAN: The second sentence, put

- 1 "The board finds that the project, as conditioned
- 2 below, is consistent with local needs."
- 3 MS. SCHNEIDER: I'm fine with that.
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. And 24 --
- 5 MS. BARRETT: Why don't I just jump in?
- 6 MS. POVERMAN: Okay.
- 7 MS. BARRETT: I was actually amazed when I
- 8 heard that these four conditions caused any sort of
- 9 consternation at all because I've been putting these
- 10 conditions in comprehensive permit decisions for
- 11 years. They were in the decision I wrote recently in
- 12 Sturbridge where Mr. Engler was the representative of
- 13 the developer. I wrote them in a decision in
- 14 Boxborough when Mr. Jacobs represented the developer.
- 15 These are not unknown conditions to any of the
- 16 players involved in this project.
- 17 Essentially, what they get at is the
- 18 balancing test that Chapter 40B is all about. And if
- 19 we don't grasp that balancing test, I think we're
- 20 missing the point of the law.
- 21 What these conditions say is that, first of
- 22 all, the board has imposed some conditions on the
- 23 project which, you know, may make the project
- 24 uneconomic. But if they do, those conditions are

- 1 justified because the local -- there are other local
- 2 concerns that outweigh the regional need for
- 3 affordable housing.
- 4 By the same token, the board has granted
- 5 certain waivers which some people may not be happy
- 6 with, but those waivers are essential, that they
- 7 outweigh the local concerns because the regional need
- 8 for affordable housing -- pardon my redundancy --
- 9 outweighs those local concerns. That's the whole
- 10 premise of these conditions.
- 11 And I think if the board is going to grant
- 12 a comprehensive permit, you need to kind of get
- 13 beyond the simple findings, if you will -- don't take
- 14 this as insulting -- the simple findings of what was
- 15 said in the process and assert that you've applied
- 16 the law to the facts at hand and reached a
- 17 conclusion. And that conclusion must be about the
- 18 balancing test of the regional need for affordable
- 19 housing and the protection of local concern.
- 20 So if you're going to approve the decision,
- 21 put language in it that says, we're going to stand by
- 22 this because we've actually applied the law in a
- 23 logical and appropriate way.
- 24 The other two conditions simply

- 1 acknowledge --
- MS. POVERMAN: Which two conditions? 2
- 3 MS. BARRETT: 26 and 27, just taking these
- 4 in order -- that people had concerns and that the
- 5 board weighed those concerns. And, of course, in
- 6 some cases those concerns have been addressed in
- 7 whole or in part, and that as far as the board is
- 8 concerned, the project has gone as far as it can to
- 9 address those concerns.
- 10 And also, at least what I heard when I was
- 11 here, is that some of the concerns that were raised
- are about conditions that already exist in the area. 12
- 13 And you can't -- whether it's this kind of project or
- 14 any other permit -- make an applicant responsible to
- 15 cure conditions that exist because the town
- 16 essentially has allowed them to endure.
- 17 So that's all these conditions are about.
- 18 I really was amazed that there was any controversy
- 19 about them because they're so -- the first two, in
- particular, 24 and 25, are just so anchored in what 20
- is this law about. 21
- 22 MS. SCHNEIDER: Where is the controversy on
- 23 these?
- 24 MS. BARRETT: I heard --

- 1 MS. POVERMAN: Why don't we discuss what
- 2 problems I have.
- MS. BARRETT: That's fine.
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: Because I totally agree with
- 5 what you're saying.
- 6 (Multiple parties speaking.)
- 7 MR. GELLER: You've got to let Kate talk.
- 8 So these were raised in the context of
- 9 40 Centre Street on which Kate and I are two of four
- 10 members who are sitting. And Kate and another member
- 11 raised concerns they had with these additions. I
- 12 don't believe any of the other members sitting on
- 13 that case had issues.
- MS. POVERMAN: So let me go through them.
- 15 And I'm not saying -- I mean, I totally agree with
- 16 you about them. So in 24 --
- 17 MS. PALERMO: Wait, Kate. If you agree --
- 18 MS. POVERMAN: Let me please go through
- 19 because it's not going to be obvious until I go
- 20 through what it is I agree with and what I don't
- 21 agree with. Okay?
- 22 So 24, I have no problem with the first
- 23 sentence, and I agree with the spirit expressed by
- 24 it: "The board finds that the conditions imposed in

- 1 this decision are necessary in order to address local
- 2 concerns."
- I have a problem with the second sentence:
- 4 "The board finds," because we made no such findings.
- 5 We have no such evidence that such conditions will
- 6 not render the project uneconomic. We've heard no
- 7 evidence relating to the economic feasibility of the
- 8 project. No evidence related to it. And I think it's
- 9 inappropriate to consider or state anything relating
- 10 to whether or not the project was economically
- 11 feasible.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: But let me just ask the
- 13 question about where we are procedurally because I
- 14 think we're about to deliberate the merits of this
- 15 decision. I think we're looking at these conditions
- 16 as potential conditions for the board to adopt, and
- 17 we are launching into our deliberative process. We
- 18 haven't necessarily made that finding yet, but I
- 19 think that's coming in the board's deliberations
- 20 before we adopt this as a decision. Maybe I'm off
- 21 base about where we are procedurally, but I think --
- MS. POVERMAN: We have no evidence.
- 23 There's no evidence --
- MS. BARRETT: Actually, you do, because the

- 1 applicant hasn't said, what you're asking me to do
- 2 would make my project uneconomic.
- 3 MS. POVERMAN: That's not evidence.
- 4 MS. BARRETT: Absolutely, that is --
- 5 MS. PALERMO: I think you may have a
- 6 misunderstanding about -- and I have no voice -- but
- 7 you see us as a judicial body.
- 8 MS. POVERMAN: We are --
- 9 MS. SCHNEIDER: We are not.
- 10 MS. PALERMO: It's not a trial. It's not
- 11 the equivalent of a trial. But if a word such as "a
- 12 district as opposed to "an area" is included in one
- 13 of our decisions, it's not going to be used as a case
- 14 that will then be argued later: This body used the
- 15 word "district" as opposed to "area," and lawyers
- 16 will go and make hay out of this difference in words.
- 17 This is a zoning board of appeals, and we
- 18 don't have that kind of weight, and our decisions
- 19 don't have that kind of weight. We will be reviewed
- 20 and our decision will be reviewed if the applicant
- 21 appeals our decision, and the applicant has given us,
- 22 I would say, strong evidence that there is not going
- 23 to be an appeal of our decision. So I wouldn't be so
- 24 cautious about every single word we say. I think

- 1 it's critical, as has been pointed out to us, that
- 2 our decision be grounded in the law behind 40B, and
- 3 that is exactly what Judi is advocating for.
- 4 It's a very different way of approaching
- 5 than when you're litigating, and I say that having
- 6 clerked in the Superior Court and Supreme Judicial
- 7 Court before I became a real estate lawyer. This is
- 8 not a court of law, and I don't think it's
- 9 appropriate to treat it that way. We are not in an
- 10 antagonistic relationship with the applicant. We are
- 11 here representing the town, and we are here to make
- 12 sure that the town gets the best it can get out of
- 13 this project. It's a very different world.
- MS. POVERMAN: Lark, I have to disagree.
- 15 And just because we may not be in conflict with the
- 16 developer does not mean that this case will not be
- 17 contested. I think we have to be very -- as a
- 18 litigator with more than 30 years of experience, I am
- 19 very careful about what something says. And this is
- 20 an opinion. It is a decision. So let me tell you,
- 21 I -- if we take out "The board finds that," I would
- 22 have less of a problem with "to the extent that the
- 23 conditions imposed may render the project uneconomic,
- 24 the boards finds that" --

- 1 MS. SCHNEIDER: It's almost that we have to
- 2 make this finding in order to --
- 3 (Multiple parties speaking.)
- 4 MS. BARRETT: There's nothing in the law
- 5 that says you have to review a pro forma. There's
- 6 nothing in the statute that says you have to do that.
- 7 MS. POVERMAN: But why do we -- there's
- 8 nothing for us --
- 9 MS. BARRETT: Because it's in support of a
- 10 decision that you are asserting.
- 11 MS. PALERMO: Can I ask a process question?
- MS. BARRETT: Sure.
- MS. PALERMO: You were discussing the fact
- 14 that we're going through these findings, and then
- 15 we're going to talk about -- I assume, having -- this
- 16 is my first time going through this on this side of
- 17 the table. I assume that we're then going to go
- 18 through the rest of the decision and talk about what
- 19 support or opinions we have about it.
- 20 So rather than getting into the weeds on
- 21 this language, can we move on? Is that a reasonable
- 22 thing to do? And then come back and have this
- 23 discussion?
- MR. GELLER: I don't know that they are --

- 1 I don't know that you need to go through -- this is
- 2 our third time looking at this. I don't know that
- 3 you need to go through the conditions.
- 4 MS. PALERMO: This is the first on this
- 5 language. Okay.
- 6 MR. GELLER: Right. But I don't know that
- 7 you need to go through the conditions before you go
- 8 back to these because I think that including these
- 9 within the findings are part of the underpinning of
- 10 our decision. Whether they are pronounced or not,
- 11 these are the assumptions we make when we are making
- 12 the decisions and inserting the conditions. I think
- 13 we're --
- MS. SCHNEIDER: This is a necessary
- 15 predicate to get into the conditions, which is that
- 16 we are finding that if we impose the following
- 17 conditions on the project, it makes the project
- 18 consistent with local needs and also --
- 19 MR. GELLER: We're simply logically laying
- 20 out the basis for the decision and the conditions.
- 21 MS. PALERMO: No. I do understand that,
- 22 and I'm just assuming that if we think about what the
- 23 conditions are, it sort of leads back to the
- 24 findings.

- 1 MR. GELLER: I'm not sure that that's going
- 2 to be as crystal clear as you might like it to be to
- 3 support the findings. I think the findings can
- 4 independently be reviewed.
- I mean, I don't have an issue with any of
- 6 the recommended findings. Because if I look at each
- 7 one of them and if I look at them and break them into
- 8 each specific sentence, is it, for me, a true
- 9 statement of what is the underpinning for a decision
- 10 that I would make? Okay? So I don't have an issue.
- 11 I don't think it is a false statement. So the issue
- 12 about, how can we say that? We haven't been provided
- 13 any testimony about the financial condition, or -- I
- 14 don't think that's what you should be focused on.
- MS. POVERMAN: Well, the way -- this would
- 16 make me happy, although I know you guys would see it
- 17 as splitting hairs. If we simply said, "To the
- 18 extent the conditions may render this project
- 19 uneconomic, the board finds that the local concerns
- 20 outweigh the potential benefits of affordable units."
- 21 I just find it -- I do not see us as having been
- 22 presented with any economic information, so I
- 23 personally find it improper to say that the board
- 24 found anything --

- 1 MS. SCHNEIDER: Well, I'm prepared to make
- 2 that finding right now, if that would make you
- 3 comfortable, and we can all talk about it. I mean,
- 4 typically in 40B -- and I don't know how things have
- 5 gone on 40 Centre, but if you are proposing to an
- 6 applicant --
- 7 And, Mr. Engler, you and I had this
- 8 conversation about another project the other night.
- 9 You can feel free and back me up on this if you want
- 10 to. If the board is looking at imposing conditions
- 11 on a project that the applicant believes is going to
- 12 render it uneconomic, you better believe that
- 13 Mr. Engler is going to be hopping up and down and
- 14 saying, we're going to go to pro forma review --
- MS. BARRETT: He has done it before.
- 16 MS. SCHNEIDER: -- because it is our
- 17 position -- the applicant's position -- that the
- 18 conditions that you are imposing are rendering this
- 19 project uneconomic.
- MR. GELLER: Which was Judi's point.
- 21 MS. SCHNEIDER: Right. We are now in our
- 22 third round of review of the conditions to this
- 23 project, and we've not heard a peep out of the
- 24 applicant's team trying to go to pro forma review or

- 1 otherwise objecting to any of the proposed conditions
- 2 as something that's going to render the project
- 3 uneconomic or otherwise unbuildable.
- 4 So the hearing is still open. We can ask
- 5 the applicant if they are intending to assert you
- 6 uneconomic conditions here.
- 7 MS. POVERMAN: Well, actually, if we just
- 8 ask the applicant, does he think the project is
- 9 economically feasible, that will be fine, as long as
- 10 we have something on the record.
- 11 MS. SCHNEIDER: I mean, again, I feel like
- 12 based on the way the proceedings have gone, we can
- 13 infer that and I would be very comfortable saying
- 14 that in this decision and also defending that in
- 15 court if we have to.
- 16 MS. BARRETT: The project must be economic
- 17 because the subsidizing agency found that it is.
- 18 MS. POVERMAN: No. It cannot -- the agency
- 19 that has to find that is the one that actually funds
- 20 it, and it has to find that at the time of funding,
- 21 not at the time of giving a PEL.
- MR. GELLER: The absence of the applicant's
- 23 objection allows the board to infer from that --
- 24 because we are not the ones who say, no, that renders

- 1 the project economically --
- 2 MS. SCHNEIDER: That's their role to say --
- 3 MR. GELLER: So the absence of --
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: I see I'm out-ruled, but I
- 5 do not see the absence of an objection as inferable.
- 6 But I will give you that.
- 7 Moving on to 25, I would eliminate the last
- 8 three lines starting with "... especially given the
- 9 project changes the applicant has agreed to make,
- 10 specifically the redesign of the building and
- 11 improvements to the site layout in direct response to
- 12 the concerns of the board and other parties in
- 13 interest." I don't see why that's necessary at all.
- 14 MS. BARRETT: Did the applicant not make
- 15 changes in response to concerns that were raised?
- 16 MS. POVERMAN: Why is that necessary?
- 17 MS. BARRETT: Because that's part of what
- 18 the board is finding in order to conclude the
- 19 granting of the permit subject to the following
- 20 conditions is appropriate.
- MS. PALERMO: I think it also sort of 21
- 22 acknowledges what I was trying express, and it is the
- 23 difference between litigation and what we're doing.
- And what we are doing, again, is not adversarial. 24

- 1 Our role is not to be adversarial. Our role is to
- 2 represent the town and try to work with the developer
- 3 to achieve a common goal. It's a very different
- 4 situation. And in this instance, we are
- 5 acknowledging that this developer tried to work with
- 6 the community and with us to achieve a common goal of
- 7 having a good project that provides affordable
- 8 housing in Brookline.
- 9 It may not be the case with many other
- 10 developments, but it is with this one. And I
- 11 personally believe it's reasonable and perfectly
- 12 appropriate to acknowledge the fact that this
- 13 developer made significant changes to the design of
- 14 the project in order to accommodate the desires and
- 15 needs of the neighborhood and us. And that's all
- 16 this is doing.
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Well, I think this has
- 18 nothing to do with local concerns. And although --
- 19 and I think we have voiced multiple times our
- 20 appreciation for the work that the developer has
- 21 done. I don't think it has any position being here.
- 22 And my concern is that if we put it in there, we're
- 23 going to find other developers who have absolutely
- 24 not been cooperative.

- 1 MS. SCHNEIDER: Then we wouldn't put it
- 2 that statement --
- 3 MS. PALERMO: We wouldn't put the
- 4 language --
- 5 MS. POVERMAN: I just don't see it as
- 6 necessary. I'm not going to jump up and down and
- 7 scream. I just do not see it as necessary.
- 8 MS. SCHNEIDER: I think, Kate, the only
- 9 think I would add -- and I think this is some of
- 10 what --
- 11 Lark, just raise your finger.
- 12 -- is that it is a balancing that we're
- 13 supposed to be doing. And I think if you look at
- 14 what that sentence is trying to convey, there were
- 15 concessions made for local concerns. Maybe not all
- 16 local concerns were fully satisfied, but the
- 17 balancing did occur.
- MS. POVERMAN: What concerns me about this
- 19 is to say that the local concerns do not outweigh the
- 20 need for affordable housing, especially given what
- 21 the developer has given us. Local concerns and the
- 22 balance of affordable housing should have nothing to
- 23 do with what concessions we've been given by the
- 24 developer. Those balances exist regardless of what

- 1 those concessions are. Why should it be affected?
- 2 MR. GELLER: Because what the developer
- does is attempt to ameliorate the effects on local 3
- 4 concerns. And in this case, that's what the
- 5 developer did, so we're simply reciting that.
- 6 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Actually, I agree
- 7 with that. You're right. I agree.
- 8 MR. GELLER: That's all we're saying.
- 9 I agree. That makes sense. MS. POVERMAN:
- MR. GELLER: Anything else? 10
- 11 MS. POVERMAN: That's it.
- 12 MR. GELLER: Okay. Let's go to conditions.
- 13 Paragraph 1, just add a comma after the
- 5,000 -- 5 comma 000. 14
- 15 Paragraph 2, instead of referring to
- 16 "retail and office tenants," shouldn't we be
- 17 referring to "the commercial space"?
- 18 MS. MORELLI: Yes.
- 19 MR. GELLER: Paragraph 3, I don't want to
- get too caught up in the method of how people acquire 20
- 21 the right. So whether it's by license, lease, or any
- 22 other method --
- 23 MS. SCHNEIDER: Do you want to just say
- "provided"? 24

- 1 MR. GELLER: Yeah.
- 2 MS. POVERMAN: I have two more parking
- 3 issues, and one is based on the notes I took at the
- 4 last meeting, which is that we specify that parking
- 5 at 49 Coolidge is to be used only by office
- 6 employees.
- 7 MS. MORELLI: So if I were to say "Parking
- 8 at 49 Coolidge should be used solely by employees of
- 9 the project, " is that too general?
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: Who's going to be working --
- 11 is it the applicant's employees who will be working
- 12 in 49 Coolidge?
- 13 MR. SHEEN: So there are four -- the
- 14 question has been asked about the four spaces --
- 15 tandem spaces at 49 Coolidge. The intention of that
- 16 is for the employees of the commercial space --
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. "So retail employees
- 18 only"?
- 19 MS. SCHNEIDER: "The commercial space."
- 20 MR. GELLER: I don't want to characterize
- 21 it necessarily as --
- MS. POVERMAN: Good point. Yeah.
- MS. BARRETT: You could just say
- 24 "nonresidential space."

- 1 MS. SCHNEIDER: Even better.
- 2 MS. POVERMAN: And at the last hearing, the
- 3 applicant specified that three parking spaces shall
- 4 be provided at no cost to affordable housing tenants
- on a first-come, first-served basis? Didn't you 5
- 6 specify that?
- 7 MR. SHEEN: The way the -- the way that
- 8 the -- our understanding of the affordable rent, if
- 9 the affordable rents were to include a rental parking
- 10 space, that the affordable rent will be reduced
- 11 accordingly. So whether it's --
- 12 MS. POVERMAN: I'm not following that.
- 13 MR. SHEEN: So, for example, if one -- if
- 14 an affordable unit is charged \$800 for the rent, it
- 15 reduces by the utility allowance as well as parking
- 16 charges if that unit rents a parking space.
- 17 effectively it has no bearing on the affordable rent
- 18 because it's --
- 19 MS. BARRETT: What the tenant is paying is
- 20 the same.
- 21 MR. SHEEN: Yes, exactly.
- 22 MR. ENGLER: Well, there's a little aspect
- of that -- first of all, the subsidizing agency 23
- 24 decides. And if parking is -- the only option for

- parking is under the building and you're charging for
- it, that's going to come off their rent. If the 2
- tenant has other parking options, like outside space 3
- 4 or on the site, and chooses to pay underneath the
- 5 building, that's their call and it doesn't come off
- 6 the rent. But that's up to the subsidizing agency to
- 7 review the final plans and decide how the
- affordability rents are set and how parking works 8
- 9 into that or not. So in this case, if there's no
- 10 other parking available, it's very likely that it's
- 11 free in your mind because it's really being deducted
- 12 from the rent.
- 13 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Because,
- 14 realistically, if someone's paying \$500 in rent, to
- 15 pay \$250 to park someplace else is not --
- 16 MR. ENGLER: Correct. I wouldn't say it's
- 17 free, because that's an option that may not be the
- 18 way it's worded. It's taken care of in the
- 19 affordable rent.
- 20 MS. POVERMAN: How would we deal with that,
- if at all, in this --21
- 22 MS. SCHNEIDER: I don't think it's a town
- 23 thing. I think that's the subsidizing agency.
- 24 MS. POVERMAN: Okay.

- 1 MR. GELLER: Paragraph 5, "The open space
- 2 on the site shall be used for" -- you've got the word
- 3 "quiet."
- 4 MS. SCHNEIDER: That's Lark's.
- 5 MS. PALERMO: I said "quiet enjoyment."
- 6 MR. GELLER: I don't know what "quiet
- 7 enjoyment" is, but okay.
- 8 MS. PALERMO: Well, it's a typical term
- 9 used, and it is quiet enjoyment.
- 10 MR. GELLER: " -- solely by the residents
- 11 of and employees of commercial tenants of the
- 12 project." Are you referring to the leasing phrase
- 13 quiet enjoyment?
- 14 MS. PALERMO: I am.
- 15 MR. GELLER: I'm not sure you can use it in
- 16 this manner the way it's meant in others, but okay.
- 17 I'm fine with it.
- 18 MS. PALERMO: I used it as a legal term
- 19 that most people would understand.
- 20 MR. GELLER: Yeah. I think it means
- 21 something else.
- MS. PALERMO: So residents who live outside
- 23 of our project have something to hang their hats on
- 24 if there are wild parties going on.

- 1 MR. GELLER: I'd suggest that using it in
- 2 this context is a nonlegal phrase because it doesn't
- 3 mean what it means.
- 4 MS. SCHNEIDER: Are you -- and I don't --
- 5 never mind.
- 6 MR. GELLER: The neighbors just don't want
- 7 to hear noise coming from the canyon, is basically
- 8 the bottom line.
- 9 MS. SCHNEIDER: Well, I think that Lark's
- 10 point was more that the people who live there
- 11 don't -- this is supposed to be, like, a passive
- 12 recreation --
- MR. GELLER: That was my point.
- 14 MS. PALERMO: Yes.
- MR. GELLER: Okay. It's passive use.
- MS. PALERMO: Passive use.
- MS. MORELLI: Any changes?
- 18 MS. SCHNEIDER: Do you want to change it to
- 19 "passive use"?
- 20 MS. PALERMO: If it will make everyone
- 21 happy.
- MR. GELLER: I think it means what Lark is
- 23 really saying.
- MS. PALERMO: That's fine.

- 1 MS. POVERMAN: Paragraph 9, if nobody has
- 2 anything before that.
- 3 MR. GELLER: Yes.
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: In the third line -- because
- 5 we're talking about prior to the issuance of the
- 6 building permit, which will be reviewed for
- 7 consistency with the plans listed under Item 4.
- 8 There are multiple plans listed under Item
- 9 4 with several dates, so I would specify it as the
- 10 site plans, the defined terms, and the architectural
- 11 plans, both of which are defined in terms referring
- 12 to the ultimate ones that were approved. And it does
- 13 not include the landscape plans, since that does not
- 14 seem to be included in this one -- in this particular
- 15 paragraph.
- MS. MORELLI: This is in another paragraph.
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Right. So it doesn't apply
- 18 here to the color of windows and other things being
- 19 reviewed. It's not design.
- 20 MS. MORELLI: So the applicant shall submit
- 21 final floor plans and elevations, so it's specifying
- 22 the kinds of plans that the assistant director would
- 23 have purview --
- MS. POVERMAN: Right. So in this instance,

- 1 site plans and architectural plans.
- MS. MORELLI: So why do you want me -- do
- 3 you want me to say, "for consistency with" and
- 4 describe those plans? Because we've already
- 5 described them in the first sentence.
- 6 MS. PALERMO: Alternatively, could you just
- 7 end it with saying "for consistency with the plans
- 8 listed under Item 4 in the decision, " and then just
- 9 put a period there? Because the building
- 10 commissioner is going to review consistency of any of
- 11 these applicable plans to what he's looking at.
- 12 MS. BARRETT: Sometimes the easiest
- 13 shorthand is to refer to them as the approved plans.
- 14 You just refer to them as the approved plans.
- MS. MORELLI: So for consistency with the
- 16 approved plans.
- 17 MS. BARRETT: Yeah. And then back earlier
- 18 when you list then -- or wherever you're listing them
- 19 say, you know, these are basically the plans of
- 20 record -- the approved plans for this decision.
- MS. PALERMO: That's a good idea.
- MS. POVERMAN: Paragraph 11, just
- 23 capitalize "building permit."
- Paragraph 12, last sentence, "any proposed

- 1 removal of street trees shall be pursuant to."
- 2 MS. SCHNEIDER: "Shall be subject to."
- 3 MS. POVERMAN: Yeah.
- 4 MR. GELLER: And before that, "construction
- 5 and planting additional street trees."
- 6 MS. MORELLI: I'm not following.
- 7 MS. SCHNEIDER: Second-to-last line of 12,
- 8 planting instead of plant.
- 9 MR. GELLER: And then at the end of that
- 10 same line, "town arborist with all costs related to
- 11 performance thereunder borne by the applicant."
- MS. BARRETT: You actually can just refer
- 13 to Chapter 87 as the "Shade Tree Act."
- MS. POVERMAN: 14A, the end of the second
- 15 line, it should be westbound -- "southwestbound side
- 16 of Fuller Street between the Fuller/Harvard Street
- 17 intersection."
- Subsection B, three lines down, prior to
- 19 the issuance of the building permit, " capital P.
- MR. GELLER: 15B, just swap out "retail and
- 21 office space for "commercial development."
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Do you want to do that on
- 23 15I as well?
- MR. GELLER: Yes.

- 1 K, "No food shall be prepared within the
- 2 commercial space."
- 3 MS. MORELLI: Oh, that's right.
- 4 MR. GELLER: I think the applicant might be
- 5 concerned if we remove the kitchens from the
- 6 residential units.
- 7 And then "prospective retail tenants" --
- 8 MS. SCHNEIDER: I'm sorry. Can we back up
- 9 for a second? Is it selectmen's office, or is it the
- 10 board of selectmen?
- 11 MS. POVERMAN: Board of selectmen.
- 12 MR. GELLER: So in the line before that,
- 13 "Prospective retail tenants shall require local
- 14 licensing and other approvals related to sale of food
- 15 and beverage products as required by local authority,
- 16 including, without limitation, and then you
- 17 continue on with your language.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: That's good, Jesse.
- 19 MS. MORELLI: Can you just read it again?
- 20 MR. GELLER: I can try. "Prospective
- 21 retail tenants shall require local licensing and
- 22 other approvals related to sale of food and beverage
- 23 products as required by local authority, including,
- 24 without limitation" -- and then it picks up.

- 1 MS. POVERMAN: And then "building
- 2 permit" capitalized.
- 3 MR. GELLER: Okay. In 19, third line,
- 4 "building departments, certificate of occupancy
- 5 process as verified by, " because that sort of picks
- 6 up conceptually what's going on.
- 7 MS. MORELLI: -- "the director of
- 8 engineering."
- 9 MR. GELLER: -- "as verified by the review
- 10 and approval of."
- 11 22, since we have acknowledged the
- 12 possibility of multiple COs, do we really mean prior
- 13 to the issuance of the first CO, the earliest CO?
- MS. BARRETT: Sometimes you do. Depends on
- 15 the project, but sometimes you do.
- 16 MR. GELLER: In this case --
- 17 MS. BARRETT: If there are conditions you
- 18 want in place before anybody moves and then before
- 19 the project is done, yeah.
- 20 MR. GELLER: So I think you need to say,
- 21 "First C of O."
- MS. POVERMAN: 25 is capitalized, the
- 23 building permit again.
- I do have a question about 27. Where,

- 1 Maria, you had a question about whether or not -- so
- 2 you say, "When 50 percent of the certificates of
- 3 occupancy are issued, the applicant shall demonstrate
- 4 to the building commissioner that the project
- 5 complies with the town noise bylaw. Pursuant to the
- 6 issuance of the final certificate of occupancy, the
- 7 applicant shall demonstrate that it complies with the
- 8 noise bylaw."
- 9 What percentage -- is it total occupancy
- 10 that the final certificate of occupancy is --
- 11 MS. MORELLI: Yes.
- 12 MS. POVERMAN: My concern about that is
- 13 this: We don't know exactly what's going to happen
- 14 in the housing climate. And let's say the last
- 15 apartment isn't filled for a year. Then the noise
- 16 review wouldn't be done for a year. So can we have
- 17 it at another percentage?
- MR. GELLER: Well, let's back up a minute.
- 19 Because I think you raise a very good point, but
- 20 you're also -- the other issue is, again, if there
- 21 are multiple COs, then you're going to have
- 22 separate -- there are separate requirements for
- 23 commercial versus residential space. Therefore, the
- 24 logic of residential space is, like our discussion on

- 1 40 Centre Street, as the building commissioner said,
- 50 percent is a good point at which to take your 2
- 3 first look.
- 4 Now, in this case, there may also be a
- 5 relevant point to look at the commercial space
- 6 because we don't know the order in which they're
- 7 going to be producing this stuff.
- 8 MS. POVERMAN: Good point.
- 9 MR. GELLER: So in terms of triggers, you
- 10 may want separate triggers, one for commercial, one
- 11 for residential.
- 12 MS. SCHNEIDER: I understand your point.
- 13 But I guess I'm thinking that given the size of the
- 14 commercial space relative to the retail space in this
- 15 project, I'm not sure that having a separate
- 16 milestone for the commercial --
- 17 MR. GELLER: Well, the issue is noise.
- 18 Let's assume that they come online in August.
- 19 MS. SCHNEIDER: Right.
- 20 MR. GELLER: And their commercial tenants
- move in first. 21
- 22 MS. SCHNEIDER: Right.
- 23 MR. GELLER: Therefore, their condensers
- 24 are functioning for their commercial tenants.

- 1 Now, yes, it is a fairly limited amount of
- 2 square footage, 5,000 square feet, but you still have
- 3 noise issues or potential noise issues. So the
- 4 question becomes, should that be a trigger point for
- 5 the building commissioner to test for dampening or
- 6 should it simply float off of whenever he gets
- 7 50 percent, 70 percent occupancy in the residential.
- 8 It's about noise.
- 9 MS. SCHNEIDER: Right. But we're really
- 10 talking about rooftop mechanicals; right?
- 11 MR. GELLER: You're talking -- in this
- 12 case, you're talking about rooftop mechanicals.
- MS. PALERMO: Instead of timing to 50
- 14 percent of the COs -- because you don't know how many
- 15 COs they're going to get. They may get one, they may
- 16 get two.
- MR. GELLER: But that's the suggestion of
- 18 the building commissioner. That was what he had
- 19 suggested.
- MS. PALERMO: Well, I was going to say --
- 21 but it's hard to know what they're going to do.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: And they may not know now.
- MS. PALERMO: And they may not know.
- And as far as occupancy, they're going to

- 1 get a CO even if they don't have a tenant for an
- 2 apartment. They're not going to hold off on getting
- 3 their CO because their lender won't let them, so
- 4 that's not a way to do it.
- 5 But possibly, if you did it with square
- 6 footage, you could say, you know, prior to the
- 7 issuance -- maybe prior to the issuance of a final
- 8 certificate of occupancy, that they'll have to
- 9 demonstrate that it complies. And that means they
- 10 won't get the final C of O, and it may be the only
- 11 C of O they go for.
- 12 MR. GELLER: Let me make a suggestion. I
- 13 think that this is something that Dan Bennett should
- 14 really look at and respond. And point out to him the
- 15 possibility in this case, unlike, for instance,
- 16 40 Centre Street, there is a possibility that the
- 17 commercial spaces are in use before the residential
- 18 spaces.
- 19 MS. MORELLI: I want to make a distinction
- 20 here. They don't have to be in use. If he wants to
- 21 have the building tested and have it all --
- MR. GELLER: But I don't know what point he
- 23 wants that testing to be.
- MS. MORELLI: But he clearly made the

- distinction between certificates of occupancy and 1
- actual occupancy. We're not saying 50 percent 2
- 3 occupied. We're 50 percent of the C of Os.
- 4 MR. GELLER: Right. Because he's using
- 5 that as the leverage to make them --
- 6 MS. MORELLI: Right. So that's -- you're
- 7 withholding something really valuable. It could be
- 8 the dead of winter. He's going to want all the
- 9 condensers fired.
- 10 MR. GELLER: But which point? What is the
- 11 point at which he wants to do this test?
- 12 MS. MORELLI: I don't understand.
- 13 MS. PALERMO: Well, I'm still not clear as
- 14 to why simply saying that they're going to withhold
- 15 the final C of O isn't enough.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Why does he need the 50 16
- 17 percent?
- 18 MR. GELLER: But that was his -- that's
- 19 what he prefers, and I don't have a compelling reason
- to say to the building commissioner that the logic 20
- 21 doesn't work. So if that's what he prefers, I'm okay
- 22 with that piece. The only piece that I question is
- 23 50 percent of C of Os is a residential analysis.
- 24 MS. PALERMO: Well, it's also, as I said,

- 1 assuming there's going to be multiple C of Os, and
- 2 there may not be, so I think we are trying to help
- 3 the building commissioner get to where he wants to
- 4 be.
- 5 MR. GELLER: Right.
- 6 MS. PALERMO: So I think the final C of O
- 7 is certainly enough of a threat to make sure that the
- 8 building complies with noise requirements. If he
- 9 wants a test prior to that, then we could perhaps
- 10 include some obligation on the part of the applicant
- 11 to demonstrate to the building commissioner at
- 12 50 percent -- or after installation of all mechanical
- 13 equipment. I mean, he just wants a test point prior
- 14 to -- it sounds like that's what the building
- 15 commissioner wants.
- 16 MS. MORELLI: He wants to make sure that
- 17 all the mechanicals --
- 18 (Multiple parties speaking. Interruption
- 19 by the court reporter.)
- 20 MS. MORELLI: The building commissioner's
- 21 point is that all mechanical equipment has to be
- 22 tested before the final C of O is issued.
- MS. PALERMO: Well, he has the right to.
- MS. MORELLI: Absolutely. He's pretty much

- 1 saying the entire building has to be compliant. In
- 2 order for the entire building to be compliant with
- 3 the noise bylaw, all of that equipment has to be run.
- 4 And it can be the dead of winter. All of the AC
- 5 units are going to be run.
- 6 MS. SCHNEIDER: I think the issue, though,
- 7 is the 50 percent --
- 8 MS. MORELLI: We can take that out. It's
- 9 really a vestige of another case, and there's a
- 10 reason. There was another case that doesn't have
- 11 blanketing condensers, so we're just being extra
- 12 cautious. We can take that out, and we can just
- 13 start with prior to the issuance --
- MS. SCHNEIDER: I think that's a great
- 15 idea.
- MS. POVERMAN: What are we taking out?
- 17 MS. SCHNEIDER: We're taking out the "50"
- 18 percent."
- 19 MS. POVERMAN: I disagree. I really
- 20 disagree. I don't see any problem with the "prior to
- 21 50 percent." I think it's protection for the
- 22 neighbors. I mean, I'm not saying I don't have faith
- 23 in the developer. I'm not saying that at all. But
- 24 you don't want, you know, a really horrible noise

- 1 system or whatever -- protection in place while full
- 2 certificate of occupancy is being -- you know, until
- 3 it's not required yet. I think you want to have --
- 4 MS. MORELLI: Let me make it clear.
- 5 They're not asking for a waiver from the noise bylaw,
- 6 so it doesn't matter at what point the building is
- 7 constructed. If it makes any noise and people
- 8 complain, they're going to get -- they are going to
- 9 get an inspector out there and they're going to get
- 10 cited because they will be in violation.
- 11 MS. PALERMO: Well, not only that. They
- 12 won't get their C of O, which means they won't be
- 13 able to put the tenants in the building, which means
- 14 their lender will foreclose. That is huge. As long
- 15 as they build a building that does not comply with
- 16 the noise requirements, they can't use --
- 17 MS. MORELLI: I really have to step in here
- 18 and say we have a process and we have regulations and
- 19 we know how to run the town. We don't have to
- 20 reinvent the bylaw. And let's just say that the
- 21 conditions don't take the place of our regulations.
- MS. POVERMAN: I fully understand that.
- MS. MORELLI: Okay.
- MS. POVERMAN: Two things are driving me.

- 1 One is that it was the building commissioner's
- 2 suggestion; and two, the fact that the neighborhood
- 3 is not necessarily going to know when the noise level
- 4 is exceeded.
- 5 We have an incredibly noisy, you know,
- 6 building a block and a half away from us, and it is
- 7 outrageous at times. I've never called up, because
- 8 I'm like, well, maybe it's violating or not. So I
- 9 don't think we want to put the onus on the neighbors
- 10 to know when the noise violations are being exceeded.
- 11 MS. MORELLI: Is there any objection to
- 12 leaving 50 percent? I don't understand what the
- 13 objection is. Does the applicant have an objection?
- 14 Does it create confusion?
- 15 MS. SCHNEIDER: I think it does create
- 16 confusion only because I think it's -- in any project
- 17 I think it's hard to figure out what the 50 percent
- 18 point is and whether there even will be a 50 percent
- 19 point at which it could be tested. You know,
- 20 sometimes -- you know, sometimes a project, as Lark
- 21 said, will just go for one final C of O at the end,
- 22 so what does that mean about the 50 percent
- 23 requirement if you're only pulling one C of O for the
- 24 whole project?

- 1 MS. MORELLI: Because of the affordable
- 2 units, there is like a -- for every four units,
- 3 market rate, that's -- so the building commissioner
- 4 is going to be giving out certificates piecemeal.
- 5 MR. GELLER: This is what the building
- 6 commissioner wanted, and therefore, let's just ask the
- 7 building commissioner.
- 8 MS. BARRETT: Can I make a suggestion?
- 9 MR. GELLER: Sure.
- MS. BARRETT: Just say, "The applicant
- 11 shall demonstrate to the building inspector that the
- 12 project complies with the town noise bylaw no later
- 13 than the issuance of the final certificate of
- 14 occupancy or sooner as determined by the building
- 15 commission."
- 16 MR. GELLER: That's fine with me.
- 17 MS. SCHNEIDER: Or we can just leave it as
- 18 is.
- 19 MS. BARRETT: Let the building commissioner
- 20 do his job.
- 21 MR. GELLER: That's fine with me if that's
- 22 all he was trying to achieve by this language,
- 23 because this is his language.
- MS. BARRETT: Let him figure it out. He'll

- 1 know when -- they actually -- I don't think the board
- 2 needs to regulate this. That's my humble opinion.
- 3 Let's make it clear that it has to comply, and the
- 4 test point will be no later than the issuance of that
- 5 last certificate of occupancy or sooner if the
- 6 building commissioner determines it needs to be done.
- 7 Are you all right with that?
- 8 MR. GELLER: Out of respect for the
- 9 building commissioner, alert him to that changed
- 10 language. This is, again, his suggestion.
- 11 MS. POVERMAN: I think we should just leave
- 12 it.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: We can also just leave it.
- 14 I think we were just trying to simplify it.
- MR. GELLER: He then has to deal with the
- 16 issue of the ambiguity of 50 percent.
- 17 MS. SCHNEIDER: Exactly. That was the
- 18 concern, trying to remove that ambiguity,
- 19 MR. GELLER: Okay. My next comment is in
- 20 31.
- 21 MS. POVERMAN: Yeah. That doesn't belong
- 22 with this project.
- MS. MORELLI: That's not true. So whenever
- 24 there is a project that is getting state funding or

- 1 permitting or licensing, it's up to the subsidizing
- 2 agency to send a project notification form to the
- 3 Mass. Historical Commission, and the Mass. Historical
- 4 Commission will determine if there are any state-
- 5 registered properties in the area that could be
- 6 adversely affected by --
- 7 MR. GELLER: That wasn't actually what I
- 8 was referring to. It's the question at the end that
- 9 needs to come out.
- 10 MS. MORELLI: I just didn't delete that
- 11 because I didn't want to edit his comments.
- 12 MR. GELLER: My next question is in 32. So
- 13 we've added TAP language, but why are we not also --
- 14 you know, one of the provisions that typically is
- 15 utilized is that commercial tenants -- it will be
- 16 included in leases that they will incentivize the use
- 17 of passes.
- 18 MS. MORELLI: I think that's an excellent
- 19 thing to add.
- 20 MS. POVERMAN: So where are we putting
- 21 that?
- MR. GELLER: It will be one of the little
- 23 Roman numerals.
- MS. MORELLI: So included in the leases for

- 1 the commercial spaces --
- 2 MR. GELLER: Correct.
- 3 MS. MORELLI: And could you just finish
- 4 that? What do you want to include?
- 5 MR. GELLER: I want to include -- I'll find
- 6 the language. I have to find it. But it's
- 7 essentially requiring commercial tenants to subsidize
- 8 MBTA passes.
- 9 MS. MORELLI: Okay.
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: My comment on 32 --
- 11 are you done with 32?
- 12 MR. GELLER: Yes.
- MS. POVERMAN: So my comment on 32 is,
- 14 again, "building permit" capped.
- 15 And then three lines down it says --
- 16 sentence started, "In accordance with the
- 17 Transportation Access Plan guidelines of the town" --
- 18 see number -- "of the" -- should it be the town --
- 19 MS. MORELLI: The town.
- 20 MS. POVERMAN: Specify town. And it's --
- 21 well, plural, "bylaws"; right?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: No. Singular.
- MS. POVERMAN: Oh, it's a particular bylaw.
- 24 Okay.

- 1 And then I know we have a disagreement with
- 2 the applicant as to the percentage of subsidies to be
- 3 provided for the employees' transit cost.
- 4 MS. MORELLI: I think he's saying that it
- 5 would be a total --
- 6 What was your understanding? Providing --
- 7 instead of 50 percent subsidy?
- 8 MR. SHEEN: I mean, that just seems a bit
- 9 arbitrary. We don't know --
- 10 MR. GELLER: I don't care about his
- 11 employees. He's got maybe two employees.
- MR. SHEEN: I've got two guys.
- 13 MR. GELLER: Seriously, I'm more concerned
- 14 about the commercial tenants.
- MS. POVERMAN: Okay. But it's the same
- 16 issue, though, I mean, whether or not we're promoting
- 17 public transportation and requiring subsidies. So
- 18 shouldn't he be required to give some sort of
- 19 subsidy?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Well, I think we are
- 21 requiring him to provide some sort of subsidy. We're
- 22 just not specifying the amount.
- MS. POVERMAN: Okay. And then the bicycle
- 24 racks, I agree that 40 is too many, even if that was

- 1 what was provided on the plans.
- 2 MS. MORELLI: I'm just saying -- it's just
- 3 a reminder to myself. It's because of the conflict
- 4 of the plan. I just want to update the plans, and I
- 5 might ask the developer to update the plans to be
- 6 consistent --
- 7 MR. BROWN: We'll go to 30.
- 8 MS. MORELLI: That's all I'm saying.
- 9 MS. POVERMAN: Okay, 34. So starting the
- 10 sentence, "The affordable units shall be dispersed
- 11 throughout the project and shall have the same
- 12 bedroom ratio or mix as" -- instead of "the other
- 13 units, " say the "market-rate units."
- MS. POVERMAN: 40 is just a question of who
- 15 monitors the reports with distributor of community
- 16 development.
- 17 MS. MORELLI: Sorry. What number?
- 18 MS. POVERMAN: Number 40. "For the period
- 19 in which the project is being monitored by the
- 20 subsidizing agency, upon the town's request the " --
- 21 MR. GELLER: It should be the owner.
- MS. POVERMAN: Do you want to capitalize
- 23 "building permit" again in paragraph 44?
- MS. MORELLI: Yeah. I've made a note of

- 1 the styling.
- 2 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. I'll stop mentioning
- 3 it, then.
- 4 MR. GELLER: My next one is 51B.
- 5 MS. POVERMAN: Hold on a second.
- 6 Okay, 46. "Fire safety: Prior to the
- 7 issuance of a building permit, the fire chief or his
- 8 designee shall review and approve the final site
- 9 plan." Get rid of, "including without limitation,"
- 10 because it doesn't make any sense there -- "to ensure
- 11 the fences and landscaping."
- 12 MS. SCHNEIDER: Do you want to get rid of
- 13 "including without limitation," or do you want to
- 14 move it to after "ensure"?
- MS. POVERMAN: "To ensure, including
- 16 without limitation" -- yeah, sure.
- Okay, 47, the last line above "building and
- 18 fire codes," it says, "direct alarm notification to
- 19 the fire department designed in accordance with the
- 20 latest versions" -- add an S -- "of the building and
- 21 fire codes."
- Okay. On to more excitement, 51C.
- MR. GELLER: I'm going to B.
- MS. POVERMAN: Oh, okay.

- 1 MR. GELLER: The second line, "lighting
- 2 plans and compliance with the site plan review
- 3 checklist," which is what 19 is really about.
- 4 MS. POVERMAN: What? The site plan review
- 5 checklist?
- 6 MR. GELLER: Uh-huh.
- 7 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Ready for C? "It has
- 8 paid all fees and funded all improvements required
- 9 pursuant to Condition 14 and, if applicable,
- 10 Condition 12." Condition 12 relates to the street
- 11 tree, so I don't think it's applicable.
- MR. GELLER: It refers to cost, in that
- 13 section, that would be borne by the applicant.
- 14 That's what it's referring to.
- 15 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Got it.
- 16 MR. GELLER: 51G, "The chief of
- 17 environmental health has reviewed and determined
- 18 compliance with the rubbish and recycling plan."
- MS. MORELLI: Well, it's not compliance
- 20 with the plan. It's actually approved -- it's in
- 21 compliance with the city's sanitation code. I mean,
- 22 they're presenting a plan in 15, but he's going to be
- 23 reviewing that and he can certainly change his mind
- 24 if he finds for any reason that it's noncompliant.

- 1 MR. GELLER: Well, here's what 15 says:
- 2 "Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the
- 3 applicant shall submit a rubbish/recycling plan
- 4 schedule to the chief of environmental health for
- 5 review and determination of compliance with town
- 6 regulations."
- 7 MS. SCHNEIDER: Right. But then he's going
- 8 to approve that plan, which is what I think Maria is
- 9 saying in this -- in F -- I'm sorry, G.
- 10 MR. GELLER: Okay. But I think he's also
- 11 determining compliance.
- 12 MS. SCHNEIDER: Right. But I think he's
- 13 not going to approve a plan until he's made a
- 14 determination of compliance.
- MR. GELLER: I assume that's correct.
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Right.
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: Paragraph 52 talks about,
- 18 "During construction, the applicant shall conform
- 19 with all state and federal laws regarding air
- 20 quality, etc."
- 21 Second sentence, "The applicant shall at
- 22 all times use reasonable means to minimize
- 23 inconvenience to residents" -- add "and
- 24 businesses" -- "in the general area."

- In 53, three lines down in parentheses, it
- 2 says, "The condition of pavement surfaces of such
- 3 routes before and after construction to be
- 4 documented." That is contained in paragraph 57, so I
- 5 think it's not necessary.
- 6 57 says, "Prior to commencement of
- 7 construction, the applicant shall provide the
- 8 director of transportation with a report and
- 9 photographs of the condition of paved surfaces along
- 10 truck routes before construction commencement and
- 11 then again prior to issuance of a C of O to ensure
- 12 construction traffic does not adversely affect the
- 13 pavement."
- MS. MORELLI: Okay.
- MS. POVERMAN: Okay. And survey -- next,
- 16 "survey of existing trees on the site and measures to
- 17 ensure tree protection, "I believe that's also
- 18 covered someplace else because the arborist
- 19 consultant --
- MS. MORELLI: What number?
- 21 MS. POVERMAN: 53, directly following the
- 22 "condition of pavement surfaces," and after
- 23 "construction to be documented," there will be "a
- 24 survey of existing trees on the site and measures to

- 1 ensure tree protection during construction."
- 2 MS. MORELLI: So what was mentioned is
- 3 street trees, so I'm not sure what you're referring
- 4 to. There's a difference between street trees and
- 5 trees on the site. What this is talking about is a
- 6 survey of existing trees on the site.
- 7 MS. POVERMAN: Oh, okay.
- 8 MS. MORELLI: And there's no other survey
- 9 except for the street trees.
- 10 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. Good point.
- 11 Oh, and 55 I had a question. So "The
- 12 applicant shall keep in optimum working order any and
- 13 all construction equipment that makes sounds." Do we
- 14 want to add that the applicant will make sure that
- 15 the construction equipment conforms with all
- 16 applicable noise bylaws?
- 17 MR. GELLER: No.
- MS. POVERMAN: No? Okay. That's all I
- 19 have.
- 20 MR. GELLER: That's all I have.
- 21 Anybody else?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: No.
- MR. GELLER: Does the applicant have
- 24 anything to add?

- 1 MR. SHEEN: No.
- 2 MR. GELLER. Maria, anything anyone else?
- 3 MS. MORELLI: No. I do want to just
- 4 acknowledge that the applicant is going to contribute
- 5 \$10,000 towards the upgrade of a traffic signal at
- 6 Harvard and Fuller Street. Even though we got a
- 7 fairly low bid, he's still committed to contributing
- 8 \$10,000 for that, which may cover most of the cost,
- 9 and DPW just wanted to acknowledge that and thank the
- 10 applicant.
- I think the -- I wanted just to also point
- 12 out that you do -- in addition to Exhibit 1, which is
- 13 the waivers, that you have Exhibit 2, which is the
- 14 terms for the replacement regulatory agreement. You
- 15 do need to update those cross-refs.
- MR. GELLER: And that's been reviewed by
- 17 town counsel?
- MS. MORELLI: It has, correct.
- 19 And then Exhibit 3 is the notice of the
- 20 hearing.
- 21 MS. POVERMAN: Okay. One typo -- sorry --
- 22 on the terms to be included in the replacement
- 23 regulatory agreement. Number one, under "Subsidizing
- 24 regulatory agreement, one, two, three, four, it

- 1 says, "The project which, inter alia, will set" -- I
- 2 think it's "forth" instead of "set for the certain
- 3 restrictions."
- 4 MS. MORELLI: So in terms of next steps --
- 5 MR. GELLER: I was just getting there. So
- 6 it seems to me -- obviously, there needs to be
- 7 another cleanup of the decision. We're fine, I
- 8 think, subject to a vote on the waiver requests.
- 9 Let me suggest to the board that we are at
- 10 a point in this hearing where I think we can close
- 11 the testimony portion and move on to the 40 days to
- 12 clean up the decision. So in my quest for democracy,
- 13 I just want to make sure everybody is all right with
- 14 that.
- 15 MS. SCHNEIDER: Yes.
- MS. POVERMAN: Yes.
- 17 MS. PALERMO: Yes.
- 18 MR. GELLER: So what we're going to do is
- 19 we're closing the hearing portion --
- 20 MS. BARRETT: Closing the public hearing.
- 21 MR. GELLER: -- closing the public hearing
- 22 portion. And what this means -- for those of you who
- 23 are familiar with 40B, or for those of you who are
- 24 not -- is that we will no longer be able to take

- 1 testimony from any source, and the board will have a
- 2 period of 40 days to deliberate and finalize the
- 3 draft that we've been talking about.
- 4 KAREN: I have a question.
- 5 MR. GELLER: Is it for our expert?
- 6 KAREN: Yes.
- 7 MR. GELLER: Karen of Babcock.
- 8 KAREN: Yes. I'm always put in the middle
- 9 of things, and I really don't want to be there. My
- 10 income has declined and the 40B promise --
- 11 MR. GELLER: Karen, this does not pertain
- 12 to the topic at hand.
- 13 KAREN: I don't see the promise of being
- 14 included as a low-income tenant.
- MR. GELLER: Karen, thank you.
- Do you have a question that pertains to the
- 17 process?
- 18 MS. SHAW: Before we close this topic, I
- 19 just want to bring up the point of the coffee shop
- 20 that's across the street.
- 21 MS. SCHNEIDER: I'm sorry. Could you just
- 22 provide your name and address?
- 23 MS. SHAW: I'm Sloat Shaw, Thorndike
- 24 Street.

- 1 And there's a coffee shop that's right
- 2 across the street from the project that hasn't been
- 3 able to get seats for its area the entire time it's
- 4 been there. It's a neighborhood beloved coffee shop.
- 5 And listening to the 40B get space for its food space
- 6 doesn't seem accurate, it doesn't seem fair. They're
- 7 just coffee and they bring in sweets. And I wondered
- 8 about that kind of equity because they've been denied
- 9 because they're, like, conflicting with Kupel's
- 10 outdoor seating and other coffee shops in the area.
- 11 So that's something that I wanted to bring up to this
- 12 point. I thought it was applicable because it's
- 13 right across the street.
- 14 MS. SCHNEIDER: I just want to clarify. I
- 15 think your question is have we granted any rights to
- 16 this project for outdoor seating on the sidewalk.
- 17 And there was a discussion that there is a separate
- 18 town licensing process that would have to occur for
- 19 them to have any kind of restaurant or cafe space,
- 20 and if they did want to be using sidewalks, it's a
- 21 separate licensing process that occurs wholly outside
- 22 of the purview of this board.
- MS. SHAW: Right. But this coffee shop's
- 24 not even allowed to have seats inside the coffee shop

- 1 because it was --
- MS. SCHNEIDER: Right. But that's --
- 3 MR. GELLER: It's a separate licensing
- 4 issue.
- 5 MS. SHAW: I just wanted to bring that up,
- 6 just as a thought.
- 7 MR. GELLER: Sure. Okay.
- Next, Maria, what do we have?
- 9 MS. BARRETT: You need to actually close
- 10 the hearing.
- MR. GELLER: Anybody?
- MS. SCHNEIDER: I move to close the public
- 13 hearing on 420 Harvard Street.
- MS. PALERMO: I second it.
- 15 MR. GELLER: All in favor?
- 16 (All affirmative.)
- 17 MS. POVERMAN: I have a question. Now that
- 18 we've made a decision, is the alternate's role done?
- 19 If we're granting the comprehensive permit --
- 20 MS. BARRETT: You haven't voted to grant
- 21 it.
- MS. POVERMAN: Never mind. Excuse me,
- 23 never mind.
- 24 (Discussion held amongst the board.)

```
1
             MS. MORELLI: So we'll have a public
 2
    meeting on January 23rd at 7:00.
 3
             MR. GELLER: Okay. Thank you, everyone.
             (Proceedings adjourned at 8:47 p.m.)
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1 I, Kristen C Krakofsky, court reporter and 2 notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, certify: 3 That the foregoing proceedings were taken 4 before me at the time and place herein set forth and 5 that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript 6 7 of my shorthand notes so taken. I further certify that I am not a relative 8 9 or employee of any of the parties, nor am I 10 financially interested in the action. 11 I declare under penalty of perjury that the 12 foregoing is true and correct. 13 Dated this 10th day of January, 2017. 14 Susten C. Lakopsky 15 16 Kristen Krakofsky, Notary Public 17 My commission expires November 3, 2017. 18 19 20 2.1 22 23 24

- <b>19</b> 17:20 28:19 58:3 75:3		<b>51B</b> 74:4
-		51C
2	73:9	74:22
	3:30	51G
	8:22	75:16
	3.35	52
		76:17
	Δ	<b>53</b> 77:1,21
l .		·
	4	55
		78:11
4:16 5:14 17:20 27:20	55:8	56.10
21	40	12:9
31:5	l .	57
22	36:9 43:5 60:1 62:16	77:4,6
31:22 58:11	72:24 73:14,18 80:11	58
- 23	81:2	12:4
l .	40B	
·	5:16 22:2 25:19 33:18	6
	39:2 43:4 80:23 81:10	
	82:5	6
	420	7:10 9:20 16:4 18:2
	3:5 5:16 83:13	
	44	7
	l .	
35:20 45:7 58:22		70
26	l .	61:7
35:3		
27	l .	<b>7:00</b> 84:2
32:14 35:3 58:24	74:17	
28	49	7:03
l .	49:5,8,12,15	3:2
	5	8
4:11 5:2		
	5	87
3	14:24 48:14 52:1	56:13
	5,000	8:47
_	14:15 48:14 61:2	84:4
	5 30 2Δ1	
		9
39:18 /3:/		9
31		21:5 54:1
69:20		90
	22 69:16 72:7	6:24
	2 7:13,21 10:5,11,15,23 11:14,18,20,22 12:21, 23 13:1,3,7,9,13,15,19, 23 16:20 48:15 79:13  20 17:22 29:1,2  2016 4:16 5:14 17:20 27:20  21 31:5  22 31:22 58:11  23 32:13,16  23rd 84:2  24 32:14 33:4 35:20 36:16, 22  25 35:20 45:7 58:22  26 35:3  27 32:14 35:3 58:24  28 5:14 27:20  28th 4:11 5:2  3  3  7:10,13,21 14:12,13,14, 24 48:19 79:19  30 39:18 73:7	70:12 71:10,11,13  34 73:9  3:30 8:22 7:13,21 10:5,11,15,23 11:14,18,20,22 12:21, 23 13:1,3,7,9,13,15,19, 23 16:20 48:15 79:13  20 17:22 29:1,2  2016 4:16 5:14 17:20 27:20  21 31:5 22 31:22 58:11 23 32:13,16 23rd 84:2 24 32:14 33:4 35:20 36:16, 22 24 32:14 33:4 35:20 36:16, 22 25 35:20 45:7 58:22 26 35:3 27 32:14 35:3 58:24 28 5:14 27:20 28th 4:11 5:2  3 3 7:10,13,21 14:12,13,14, 24 48:19 79:19 30 39:18 73:7 31 69:20  70:12 71:10,11,13 34 73:9 3:30 8:22 3:35 14:5  44 7:15,21 17:19 54:7,9 55:8 40 7:7 8:7 11:7,24 12:3 36:9 43:5 60:1 62:16 72:24 73:14,18 80:11 81:2 40B 5:16 22:2 25:19 33:18 39:2 43:4 80:23 81:10 82:5 420 3:5 5:16 83:13 44 73:23 46 74:6 47 74:17 49 49:5,8,12,15  5 14:24 48:14 52:1 5,000 14:15 48:14 61:2 5.30.2A1 5:6 50 17:24 59:2 60:2 61:7,13 63:2,3,16,23 64:12 65:7,17,21 67:12,17,18,

96-gallon 5:22 6:7 7:4 Α **A.1** 10:5 AA.2 13:17 able 66:13 80:24 82:3 above-noted 5:19 absence 44:22 45:3,5 absolutely 8:11 38:4 46:23 64:24 abuts 9:21 10:1 abutting 27:3 AC 65:4 Access 71:17 accommodate 46:14 accurate 19:15 82:6 achieve 46:3,6 68:22 acknowledge 35:1 46:12 79:4,9 acknowledged 58:11 acknowledges 45:22 acknowledging 46:5 acquire 48:20 acquired 6:3,10 Act 56:13

acting 18:8 active 16:21 actual 63:2 add 14:17 15:21 16:9,13 17:23 27:7,14 28:23 47:9 48:13 70:19 74:20 76:23 78:14,24 added 70:13 addition 8:24 16:9 79:12 additional 4:8 6:2,9,10,18 56:5 additions 36:11 address 35:9 37:1 81:22 addressed 35:6 adequate 7:1 adjourned 84:4 administrative 4:3 adopt 37:16.20 adversarial 45:24 46:1 adversely 70:6 77:12 advised 5:18 advocating 39:3 affect 6:4 77:12 affirmative 83:16 affordability 51:8

affordable 34:3,8,18 42:20 46:7 47:20,22 50:4,8,9,10, 14,17 51:19 68:1 73:10 afternoon 3:16 8:23 agency 4:7 44:17,18 50:23 51:6,23 70:2 73:20 agree 21:24 36:4,15,17,20,21, 23 48:6,7,9 72:24 agreed 45:9 agreement 79:14,23,24 air 76:19 alarm 74:18 alert 69:9 alia 80:1 allowance 50:15 allowed 11:7 29:7 35:16 82:24 allows 44:23 Allston 18:14 alternate's 83:18 Alternatively 55:6 amazed 33:7 35:18 ambiguity 69:16,18 ameliorate 48:3 amount

analysis 63:23 anchored 35:20 antagonistic 39:10 anybody 32:21 58:18 78:21 83:11 apartment 26:23 59:15 62:2 apologize 12:19 appeal 38:23 appeals 5:14 38:17,21 applicable 28:24 55:11 75:9,11 78:16 82:12 applicant 6:11 15:1 16:5 17:20 30:8 31:6.8 35:14 38:1. 20,21 39:10 43:6,11 44:5,8 45:9,14 50:3 54:20 56:11 57:4 59:3.7 64:10 67:13 68:10 72:2 75:13 76:3,18,21 77:7 78:12,14,23 79:4,10 applicant's 5:2 27:6 43:17.24 44:22 49:11 application 14:22 16:18 applied 29:12 34:15,22 apply 54:17 appreciation 46:20 approaching 39:4 appropriate 8:3 18:6,15 34:23 39:9 45:20 46:12 approval

8:1 11:3 61:1 72:22

58:10 60:18 76:15 14:11 basically 53:7 55:19 approvals assuming blanketing 57:14,22 41:22 64:1 basis 65:11 5:24 41:20 50:5 assumptions approve block **BB.1** 34:20 74:8 76:8,13 41:11 67:6 13:19 approved atlas board bearing 5:13 22:20 25:9 26:17 7:1 54:12 55:13,14,16, 24:18 20 75:20 50:17 27:22 28:3 32:13,16,18 attempt 33:1,22 34:4,11 35:5,7 approximately 48:3 bedroom 36:24 37:4,16 38:17 73:12 14:4 39:21 42:19,23 43:10 August arbitrary 60:18 believe 44:23 45:12,18 57:10, 11 69:1 80:9 81:1 82:22 72:9 15:19 36:12 43:12 authority 83:24 46:11 77:17 arborist 57:15,23 56:10 77:18 believes board's available 43:11 21:17 37:19 architectural 17:22 51:10 boards 14:21 26:22 54:10 55:1 belong 32:17 39:24 69:21 В architecturally beloved body 21:22 22:17,22 23:5 26:14 82:4 26:1 38:7,14 **Babcock** 81:7 architecture benefits **Boehmer** 42:20 21:6.13 26:18 23:1 back 21:12 25:14 40:22 41:8, bold Bennett 23 43:9 55:17 57:8 18:22 19:12 20:24 22:7. 62:13 14:20 59:18 11,14,16,22 23:9,17 borne best 24:3,6,15 25:8 26:9 balance 56:11 75:13 19:21 39:12 35:12 38:12,15 70:5 47.22 borrow 76:24 82:3,10 better balances 23:19 25:8 43:12 50:1 32:6 arqued 47:24 **Boston** 17:12 38:14 beverage balancing 57:15,22 19:23 asked 33:18,19 34:18 47:12, 49:14 Boston/brookline beyond 34:13 18:10 19:12 20:23 asking **BARRETT** 23:14 38:1 66:5 bottom bicycle 17:6 20:15,19 21:17,19 72:23 53:8 22:10,21 23:7,16 24:6, aspect 21,24 25:5 26:8,15 50:22 bid **Boxborough** 29:20 32:11,14 33:5,7 33:14 79:7 assert 35:3,24 36:3 37:24 38:4 34:15 44:5 break biq 40:4,9,12 43:15 44:16 30:17 42:7 25:17 26:9 32:11 45:14,17 49:23 50:19 asserting 55:12,17 56:12 58:14, **Brendan** 40:10 bigger 17 68:8,10,19,24 80:20 5:3 7:17,22 assistance 83:9,20 17:4 bins bring base 23:18 81:19 82:7,11 6:7 assistant 37:21 83:5 54:22 hit based broadly 29:17 72:8 assume 44:12 49:3 24:4 14:11 22:14 40:15,17 blame

## **Brookline**

18:10,14 19:13 20:24 22:20 46:8

#### **BROWN**

73:7

# build

66:15

# building

5:4,5,7 12:8 16:10 21:14 22:16,24 26:9,23 28:5 45:10 51:1,5 54:6 55:9,23 56:19 58:1,4,23 59:4 60:1 61:5,18 62:21 63:20 64:3,8,11,14,20 65:1,2 66:6,13,15 67:1, 6 68:3,5,7,11,14,19 69:6,9 71:14 73:23 74:7,17,20 76:2

# building's

5:22

### buildings

19:24 22:3,8 24:22 25:1,4,6 26:10

# buildings,'

21:23

#### business

9:20,24 24:9,20

#### businesses

76:24

# **buttons**

30:22

### bylaw

59:5,8 65:3 66:5,20 68:12 71:23

### **bylaws**

15:2 25:21 71:21 78:16

# С

# C.1

10:7

# cafe

8:16 29:14 82:19

### cafes

30:2,4,9

#### calculated

5:4

### calculation

PROCEEDINGS

4:24

# call

15:24 51:5

### called

15:17 67:7

### calling

22:16

#### can't

20:1 24:5 27:10 35:13 66:16

### cans

7:17

# canyon

53:7

### capacity

7:3

# capital

16:5,18 56:19

# capitalize

55:23 73:22

# capitalized

58:2,22

### capped

71:14

### care

51:18 72:10

### careful

39:19

### carry

7:24

### case

25:18,19 36:13 38:13 39:16 46:9 48:4 51:9 58:16 60:4 61:12 62:15 65:9,10

# cases

35:6

# catch

9:4

### caught

48:20

### caused

33:8

### cautious

38:24 65:12

# CC'D

4:11

### CC.2

13:21

### Centre

7:7 8:7 36:9 43:5 60:1 62:16

#### certain

3:22 15:14 34:5 80:2

# certainly

64:7 75:23

# certificate

58:4 59:6,10 62:8 66:2 68:13 69:5

# certificates

59:2 63:1 68:4

# chance

9:2

# change

32:22 53:18 75:23

# changed

69:9

# changes

9:12 28:18 45:9,15 46:13 53:17

# changing

22:6

### Chapter

33:18 56:13

# character

25:4,5

### characterize

49:20

# charged

50:14

# charges

50:16

# charging

51:1

### checklist

75:3,5

# chief

5:15 74:7 75:16 76:4

## chooses

51:4

#### circulated

3:15.24 14:4

#### circumvent

25:20

### circumvents

25:21

### citation

18:16

# cited

66:10

# city's

75:21

# civil 5:2

clarified

# 5:3,24 15:12

clarify

# 82:14

**clean** 80:12

# cleanup

80:7

### clear

11:9 21:19 42:2 63:13 66:4 69:3

# clearer

21:12

# clearly

62:24

# clerked

39:6

# Cliff 18:17 21:5,13

# Cliff's

18:16

# Clifford

26:17 climate

### 59:14

**close** 80:10 81:18 83:9,12

closing

80:19,20,21

#### code

5:6 6:22 75:21

#### codes

74:18,21

#### coffee

6:15 29:10 32:4.5 81:19 82:1,4,7,10,23,24

### coherent

21:22 22:17,22 23:3,6 26:14

### colon

17:8

#### color

54:18

# column

11:6

#### come

25:10,14 40:22 51:2,5 60:18 70:9

### comes

31:12

#### comfortable

22:15 43:3 44:13

#### coming

12:18 37:19 53:7

#### comma

14:17 48:13,14

### commas

17:16

#### commencement

77:6,10

#### comment

27:5 29:3 69:19 71:10,

#### comments

26:19 70:11

### commercial

6:6,7 18:3,4,7,13,19 19:1,2,18,20,24 20:16, 19 21:1,22 22:13,19,22, 24 23:1,4,6,7,9,10 24:3, 6,14,22 25:1,4,6,15,16 27:1 31:10 32:2 48:17 49:16,19 52:11 56:21 57:2 59:23 60:5,10,14,

16.20.24 62:17 70:15 71:1,7 72:14

### commission

68:15 70:3.4

#### commissioner

5:4,7 55:10 59:4 60:1 61:5,18 63:20 64:3,11, 15 68:3,6,7,19 69:6,9

### commissioner's

64:20 67:1

# commissions

32:17

## commit

22:20

### committed

79:7

### common

46:3,6

### community

46:6 73:15

# compacted

7:12

### compactor

7:8 8:5,7,10

# compactors

7:8

### compelling

63:19

# complain

66:8

#### compliance

6:21,24 75:2,18,19,21 76:5,11,14

### compliant

65:1,2

# complies

59:5,7 62:9 64:8 68:12

### comply

66:15 69:3

### comprehensive

14:22 33:10 34:12 83:19

### compressed

7:12

## conceptually

29:6,11 58:6

### concern

16:16 24:2 26:8 34:19 46:22 59:12 69:18

#### concerned

35:8 57:5 72:13

### concerns

32:16 34:2,7,9 35:4,5,6, 9,11 36:11 37:2 42:19 45:12,15 46:18 47:15, 16,18,19,21 48:4

### concessions

47:15,23 48:1

# conclude

45:18

#### conclusion

34:17

#### condensers

60:23 63:9 65:11

#### condition

8:21 29:21 31:12 42:13 75:9,10 77:2,9,22

# conditioned

32:19 33:1

# conditions

3:11 9:9 14:9 28:6 29:17 31:19 32:9 33:8, 10,15,21,22,24 34:10, 24 35:2,12,15,17 36:24 37:5.15.16 39:23 41:3. 7,12,15,17,20,23 42:18 43:10,18,22 44:1,6 45:20 48:12 58:17 66:21

# configuration

26:21

# confirm

9:16,17

### confirms

5:8

#### conflict

39:15 73:3

### conflicting

82:9

### conform

76:18

# conforms

78:15

# confusing

17:18

# confusion

67:14,16

### conjunction

27:22 28:2,12

# consequences

23:23

### consider

37:9

### considered

15:13

### consistency

54:7 55:3,7,10,15

#### consistent

9:13.17 16:5 20:15.17 32:19 33:2 41:18 73:6

### consistently

29:12

### consisting

4:17

# consists

19:13,23 20:12,13,24

# consternation

33:9

### constructed

66:7

#### construction

56:4 76:18 77:3,7,10, 12,23 78:1,13,15

# consultant

9:11 77:19

# contained

77.4

#### containment

6:2.9

### contested

39:17

### context

22:3 36:8 53:2

#### contextual

continue	cover	days	37:17
3:19 57:17	12:14 79:8	6:4 80:11 81:2	delta
continuing	covered	DD.1	11:9
3:4	77:18	13:23	democracy
contribute	create	dead	80:12
79:4	67:14,15	63:8 65:4	demonstrate
contributing	critical	deal	59:3,7 62:9 64:11 68:11
79:7	39:1	51:20 69:15	denied
controversy	croissant 30:10	December	82:8
32:12 35:18,22	30.10	4:11 5:2,14	department
conversation	cross	decide	5:18 6:12,18,23 16:8
43:8	31:6	51:7	74:19
convey	Cross-reference	decides	departments
47:14	29:20	50:24	6:19 58:4
cooking	cross-refs	decision	Depends
29:9 30:20	79:15	3:10,14,17,24 8:10,11, 19,20 9:9 14:2 25:24	58:14
Coolidge	crystal	28:6 33:11,13 34:20	describe
49:5,8,12,15	42:2	37:1,15,20 38:20,21,23	23:16 55:4
cooperative	cubic	39:2,20 40:10,18 41:10,	described
46:24	7:5	20 42:9 44:14 55:8,20 80:7,12 83:18	55:5
copy	curbs	decisions	design
4:10,20	7:18	33:10 38:13,18 41:12	16:10,13 21:14 26:18 46:13 54:19
corner	curbside	declined	
15:13	6:4	81:10	designed 27:20 74:19
correct	cure	deducted	
5:9 51:16 71:2 76:15 79:18	35:15	51:11	designee 74:8
	customers	defending	desires
correspondence 3:21 4:23	31:9	44:14	46:14
	D	_   defer	
<b>COS</b> 58:12 59:21 61:14,15		- 25:9	<b>detail</b> 29:18
	D.2	define	details
<b>cost</b> 50:4 72:3 75:12 79:8	10:9	29:13	4:3
costs	dampening	defined	determination
56:10	61:5	32:20 54:10,11	76:5,14
counsel	Dan	defining	determine
79:17	62:13	18:9 22:4	70:4
counsel's	date	delete	determined
9:12	16:2	30:1 70:10	68:14 75:17
course	dated	deliberate	determines
31:15 35:5	4:11,16 5:3,8	37:14 81:2	69:6
court	dates	deliberations	determining
25:23 39:6,7,8 44:15	54:9	37:19	76:11
64:19	David	deliberative	developer
	4:12	aciibci ati VC	ucvelopei

18:12 25:14,19,20 33:13,14 39:16 46:2,5, 13,20 47:21,24 48:2,5 65:23 73:5

# developers

46:23

# development

12:8 56:21 73:16

# developments

46:10

### didn't

9:23 14:11 50:5 70:10, 11

### difference

7:3 8:4 38:16 45:23 78:4

### different

10:1 24:13 26:10 39:4, 13 46:3

# dimensions

7:19,20

### direct

45:11 74:18

### directly

77:21

# director

54:22 58:7 77:8

#### disagree

16:23 17:4 26:4 39:14 65:19.20

#### disagreement

72:1

### discuss

36:1

# discussed

8:15

### discussing

40:13

#### discussion

3:14,19 40:23 59:24 82:17 83:24

# dispersed

73:10

# distinction

62:19 63:1

### distributor

73:15

### district

9:20,21 10:1 18:3,5,7,9, 13 21:4,23 22:6,11,12 24:9,20 25:15,16 38:12, 15

# Ditto's

27:10

### document

9:10,13 14:6

# documented

77:4,23

#### doesn't

26:9 51:5 53:2 54:17 63:21 65:10 66:6 69:21 74:10 82:6

# doing

24:12 45:23,24 46:16 47:13

# don't

9:20 14:8 15:1 17:6,17 18:8,15 19:9 20:2 22:18,19 23:21,24 24:18,19,21 25:7 26:5, 12,15 30:7,22 31:3 33:5,19 34:13 36:1,12, 20 38:18,19 39:8 40:24 41:1,2,6 42:5,10,11,14 43:4 45:13 46:21 47:5 48:19 49:20 51:22 52:6 53:4,6,11 59:13 60:6 61:14 62:1,20,22 63:12, 19 65:20,22,24 66:19, 21 67:9,12 69:1 72:9,10 75:11 81:9,13

## **Donuts**

30:21

# **DPW**

79:9

### Dr

3:22 4:2 5:11 32:7

# draft

3:10 4:1,2 81:3

# **drive** 24:14

# driveway

27:20 28:16

# driving

24:10 66:24

# dumpster

7:10

### dumpsters

7:9

### Dunkin'

30:21

#### Ε

### E.1

10:11

### earlier

3:21 55:17

### earliest

58:13

# earning

17:23

### easiest

55:12

# economic

37:7 42:22 44:16

# economically

37:10 44:9 45:1

# edit

70:11

# editorial

24:1

# effectively

50:17

### effects

48:3

# effort

23:18

### eight

5:22 7:4

# either

9:16 11:7 17:16 19:2 29:12

## elevations

54:21

### eligibility

4:15

## eliminate

27:23 45:7

### **Eliminating**

28:21

### employees

49:6,8,11,16,17 52:11 72:11

# employees'

72:3

### endure

35:16

# engineer

5:2

# engineering

58:8

# **Engler**

33:12 43:7,13 50:22 51:16

# enhance

28:7

# enjoyment

52:5,7,9,13

#### ensure

7:1 74:10,14,15 77:11, 17 78:1

# entire

65:1,2 82:3

# environmental

5:15 16:14 75:17 76:4

#### environments

6:21

# equipment

64:13,21 65:3 78:13,15

# equity

82:8

# equivalent

38:11

# especially

45:8 47:20

# essential 34:6

# essentially

33:17 35:16 71:7

# establishment

### establishments

30:3,19

# estate

39:7

### euphemism

18:21

# evening

3:3,5 27:13

# event

26:6

# everybody

80:13

#### evidence

37:5,7,8,22,23 38:3,22

### exactly

24:2 32:8 39:3 50:21 59:13 69:17

# example

18:12 50:13

# exceeded

67:4,10

### excellent

70:18

# exception

6:13 29:10 32:3

### excitement

74:22

# excluding

30:2

# exclusive

24:12

# **Excuse**

83:22

### **Exhibit**

79:12,13,19

# exist

35:12,15 47:24

# existing

77:16,24 78:6

# experience

39:18

# expert

81:5

# express

45:22

# expressed

26:19 36:23

#### extended

23:18

### extends

18:9 19:11,22 20:23 21:3

PROCEEDINGS

### extent

39:22 42:18

# extra

65:11

#### extraordinaire

9:11

### F

### **F.2** 10:13

# fact

14:11 40:13 46:12 67:2

# facts

34:16

# fair

82:6

# fairly

61:1 79:7

# faith

65:22

### false

42:11

# familiar

25:18 80:23

### far

18:5 35:7,8 61:24

# favor

83:15

# feasibility

37:7

### feasible

37:11 44:9

### federal

76:19

# feel

43:9 44:11

### fees

75:8

# feet

7:13,15,21 11:3,7 12:1, 3,4 14:15,16 61:2

#### fences

74:11

# figure

67:17 68:24

# figuring

21:13

# filled

59:15

### final

51:7 54:21 59:6,10 62:7,10 63:15 64:6,22 67:21 68:13 74:8

# finalize

81:2

### financial

17:3 42:13

### find

20:10 42:21.23 44:19. 20 46:23 71:5,6

### finding

37:18 40:2 41:16 43:2 45:18

### findings

16:20 31:14 34:13,14 37:4 40:14 41:9.24 42:3,6

### finds

32:18 33:1 36:24 37:4 39:21,24 42:19 75:24

10:14,16,18,22 11:15, 17,19,21 12:22,24 13:2 23:16,20 24:23 33:3 36:3 44:9 52:17 53:24 68:16,21 80:7

### fine-tuned

3:9

# finger

47:11

# finish

9:23 71:3

## fire

74:6,7,18,19,21

# fired

63:9

#### first

9:8,19,21 14:14 16:20 18:3 29:2 33:21 35:19 36:22 40:16 41:4 50:23 55:5 58:13,21 60:3,21

# first-come

50:5

# first-served

50:5

# fit

26:9

### float

61:6

# floor

54:21

### focused 42:14

following 5:20 41:16 45:19 50:12

56:6 77:21

# food

6:14,16,17 29:8,23 30:13,18,19 31:2 32:4 57:1,14,22 82:5

# food/coffee

6:14

#### foot

7:10

# footage

61:2 62:6

# foreclose

66:14 **Forget** 

# 12:20

form 4:1 70:2

# forma

40:5 43:14,24

#### forth

80:2

found

6:1,8 42:24 44:17

#### four

6:7 14:5 28:19 33:8 36:9 49:13,14 68:2 79:24

#### free

43:9 51:11,17

# front

8:23

### full

9:21 66:1

#### **Fuller**

27:19 28:15 56:16 79:6

### Fuller/harvard

56:16

### fully

47:16 66:22

# functioning

60:24

### funded

75:8

### funding

44:20 69:24

### **funds**

44:19

# future

18:12

G

# G.1

10:15

# garbage

7:17

### Geller

3:3,4,7 4:21 5:10 9:6 10:5,7,9,11,13,15,17, 19,21,23 11:1,13,16,18, 20,22 12:21,23 13:1,3, 5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19, 21,23 14:1,13,17 15:10, 15,17,20 16:1,23 17:8, 14 18:16,21 25:13 27:7, 14,18 29:2,6,22 30:12, 15,17 31:3,22,24 32:8, 23 36:7 40:24 41:6,19 42:1 43:20 44:22 45:3 48:2,8,10,12,19 49:1,20 52:1,6,10,15,20 53:1,6, 13,15,22 54:3 56:4,9, 20,24 57:4,12,20 58:3, 9,16,20 59:18 60:9,17, 20,23 61:11,17 62:12, 22 63:4,10,18 64:5 68:5,9,16,21 69:8,15,19 70:7,12,22 71:2,5,12 72:10,13 73:21 74:4,23 75:1,6,12,16 76:1,10,15 78:17,20,23 79:2,16 80:5,18,21 81:5,7,11,15 83:3,7,11,15 84:3

### general

14:8 24:20 49:9 76:24

# generally

23:24

# generated

8:15

# generating

15:11

# geographically

18:23

# getting

40:20 62:2 69:24 80:5

### aive

45:6 72:18

#### given

11:4 38:21 45:8 47:20, 21,23 60:13

#### giving

3:22 20:11 44:21 68:4

### go

9:2,3 20:21 26:5,7 29:5 36:14,18,19 38:16 40:17 41:1,3,7 43:14,24 48:12 62:11 67:21 73:7

## goal

46:3,6

#### going

7:12,22 9:7 16:6 17:19
18:13 21:12,20 26:2
32:6 34:11,20,21 36:19
38:13,22 40:14,15,16,
17 42:1 43:11,13,14
44:2 46:23 47:6 49:10
51:2 52:24 55:10 58:6
59:13,21 60:7 61:15,20,

21,24 62:2 63:8,14 64:1 65:5 66:8,9 67:3 68:4 74:23 75:22 76:7,13 79:4 80:18

### good

3:3 23:24 46:7 49:22 55:21 57:18 59:19 60:2, 8 78:10

# Googled

18:6

### grant

34:11 83:20

### granted

34:4 82:15

# granting

45:19 83:19

# grasp

33:19

# great

9:5 65:14

# grounded

39:2

# guess

23:12 30:8 60:13

### guidelines

71:17

### guys

42:16 72:12

### Н

# **H.1** 10:17

hairs

# 42:17

42:17

# **half** 67:6

Hanafin

# 4:12

4.12

# hand

34:16 81:12

# handed

12:11

# handling

6:7

# hang

52:23

### happen

59:13

### happy

17:12 34:5 42:16 53:21

#### hard

31:13 61:21 67:17

### Harvard

3:5 5:16 18:2,4,7,24 19:6,11,22 20:8,22 21:22 22:18,19,22 23:1, 2,6,8,10 24:7,17,22 25:1,4 26:14 27:1 79:6 83:13

#### hasn't

38:1 82:2

# hats

52:23

# haven't

37:18 42:12 83:20

# hay

38:16

### hazard

27:23 28:14,16

# He'll

68:24

#### he's

21:8,17 27:18 55:11 63:4,8 64:24 72:4,11 75:22 76:7,10,12,13 79:7

#### heads

16:8

# health

5:15 6:11,18,22 16:13 75:17 76:4

### hear

53:7

### heard

32:16 33:8 35:10,24 37:6 43:23

### hearing

3:4,8,12 9:18 26:20 44:4 50:2 79:20 80:10, 19,20,21 83:10,13 heat 30:9 heavier 7:11,13 height 4:24 5:5 11:24 12:6,8, held 83:24 help 25:9 64:2 here's 32:15 76:1 high 7:10,14,21 higher 11:12 Historical 70:3 hit 30:22 hold 62:2 74:5 home 7:23 24:10,14 homes 27:3

hopefully 3:17

43:13 horrible

hopping

65:24 households

17:23 housing

> 6:22 16:22 17:2 34:3.8. 19 46:8 47:20,22 50:4 59:14

huge 20:6 66:14 humble 69:2

hyphen 15:6,23 ı

ľd. 53:1 71:5 74:2

l'm 7:14 12:13 15:3 16:6 17:12,15 22:5 23:12,14 25:9,18 32:6 33:3 36:15 37:20 41:22 42:1 43:1 45:4 47:6 50:12 52:15, 17 56:6 57:8 60:13,15 63:13,21 65:22,23 67:8 72:13 73:2,8 74:23 76:9

l've

33:9 67:7 72:12 73:24

78:3 81:8,21,23

1.1 10:19

idea 23:24 29:22 55:21 65:15

identified 21:8

identify 21:7 implies 22:7

import 29:18

important 5:12

impose 41:16

imposed 33:22 36:24 39:23

43:10,18 impression 20:12

imposing

improper 42:23

improvements 45:11 75:8

inadequate 27:2

inappropriate 37:9

incentivize 70:16

inches 12:9

include 50:9 54:13 64:10 71:4,5

included 4:9 38:12 54:14 70:16. 24 79:22 81:14

including 17:2 30:1 41:8 57:16,23

inclusionary 17:2

74:9,13,15

income 16:22 17:2 81:10

incongruous 21:21 22:21 24:24 26:24

inconvenience 76:23

incorporated

4:1

increasing

6:4 incredibly

67:5

independent 16:8,10 21:11,14 26:18

independently 42:4

infeasible 26:22

infer 44:13,23

inferable 45:5

influence 20:6

information 42:22

initial

4:15

inserted 9:13

inserting 41:12 inside

inspector 66:9 68:11

82:24

installation 64:12

instance 46:4 54:24 62:15

insulting 34:14

intending 44:5

intention 49:15

inter 80:1

interest 45:13 interested

3:17 interpret 22:12

Interruption 64:18

intersection 56:17

interwoven 24:20 involved

33:16 involving

25:24 irrelevant

31:6

12:1 30:14 59:15 63:15

issuance

54:5 56:19 58:13 59:6

62:7 65:13 68:13 69:4 74:7 76:2 77:11

#### issue

6:23 17:7,18 22:1 23:12,15 42:5,10,11 59:20 60:17 65:6 69:16 72:16 83:4

### issued

4:14 59:3 64:22

#### issues

16:15 36:13 49:3 61:3

#### it's

4:18 7:12 8:10,11 9:17 11:5 15:5,16 17:11,17 18:6 19:2.24 21:15 23:16,17,20,24 24:3,4, 8,11,14,24 25:15 26:1, 5.9 27:21 28:15 31:13. 14 35:13 36:19 37:8 38:10,13 39:1,4,8,13 40:1,9 46:3,11 48:21 50:11,18 51:10,11,16, 18,22 52:8,16 53:15 54:19,21 61:8,21 63:24 65:8,21 66:3 67:8,16,17 70:1,8 71:6,20,23 72:15 73:2.3 75:11.14.19.20. 24 77:5 80:2 82:3,4,12, 20 83:3

## Item

54:7,8 55:8

### iteration

3:24

# its

8:8 24:8 26:21 82:3,5

## J

### J.1

10:21

#### **Jacobs**

33:14

# **January**

84:2

### Jesse

3:4,7 57:18

### iob

68:20

# **Johanna**

3:6

### Judi

22:1 39:3

### Judi's

43:20

#### judicial

26:1 38:7 39:6

# jump

33:5 47:6

# justified

34:1

#### Κ

# **K**.1

10:23

### Karen

81:4,6,7,8,11,13,15

### Kate

3:7 14:7 22:5,15 25:11 36:7,9,10,17 47:8

### keep

31:13 78:12

#### key

15:3,4,6,16,22

# kind

21:15 23:18,22 34:12 35:13 38:18,19 82:8,19

# kinds

30:18 54:22

### kitchens

32:1 57:5

#### know

4:5 14:7,8 15:1 18:14, 22 20:2 23:20 24:10,19 25:7,8 30:10 33:23 40:24 41:1,2,6 42:16 43:4 52:6 55:19 59:13 60:6 61:14,21,22,23 62:6,22 65:24 66:2,19 67:3,5,10,19,20 69:1 70:14 72:1,9

#### known

19:12 20:24

# Kupel's

82:9

### L

# **L-1** 24:17

**L-1.0.** 24:10

# **L.2** 11:1

# landscape

54:13

# landscaping

74:11

# language

29:19 32:7 34:21 40:21 41:5 47:4 57:17 68:22, 23 69:10 70:13 71:6

#### Lark

3:6 39:14 47:11 53:22 67:20

# Lark's

52:4 53:9

# latest

74:20

# launching

37:17

### law

33:20 34:16,22 35:21 39:2,8 40:4

#### laws

76:19

# lawyer

39:7

#### lawyers

38:15

### laying

41:19

# layout

45:11

# leads

41:23

### lease

48:21

### leases

70:16,24

# leasing

52:12

### leave

14:23 17:14 68:17 69:11,13

# leaving

67:12

# legal

52:18

# lender

62:3 66:14

#### let's

14:2,16 29:5 48:12 59:14,18 60:18 66:20 68:6 69:3

### letter

4:10,14,15,16,19 5:11 27:10,11,12 32:7

#### level

26:6 67:3

# leverage

63:5

# license

48:21

### licensing

57:14,21 70:1 82:18,21 83:3

# lighting

75:1

# limitation

57:16,24 74:9,13,16

### limited

6:14 32:3 61:1

#### line

18:10 19:12,23 20:23 21:20 28:21 53:8 54:4 56:7,10,15 57:12 58:3 74:17 75:1

### lines

28:19,20 45:8 56:18 71:15 77:1

#### list

3:13 9:7,15,16 17:1 21:10 55:18

### listed

54:7,8 55:8

listening 82:5

**listing** 17:9 55:18

litigating 39:5

litigation 45:23

litigator 39:18

little 29:17 50:22 70:22

live

52:22 53:10

**load** 7:11

loaded 25:6

local

15:2 16:16 24:8 25:21 26:18 32:18,20 33:2 34:1,7,9,19 37:1 41:18 42:19 46:18 47:15,16, 19,21 48:3 57:13,15,21, 23

logic

59:24 63:20

logical 34:23

logically

41:19 **long** 

44:9 66:14

longer 80:24

look

4:7 12:10 42:6,7 47:13 60:3,5 62:14

looking

18:22 29:11 37:15 41:2 43:10 55:11

lot

12:18 15:13 28:21 30:9

lots 14:7 low

16:22 17:1 79:7

low-income

81:14

M

**M.1** 11:14

maintained

6:21

making 41:11

Maloney

3:22 4:2 5:14 7:21

**Maloney's** 5:11 32:7

management 16:15

mandatory

31:20

manner 52:16

**map** 24:18

24:18 Maria

4:3 59:1 76:8 79:2 83:8

market 68:3

market-rate 73:13

**Mass** 70:3

Masshousing

4:6,12

massive 26:21

matter

matters 16:12

**max** 11:7

**maximum** 11:11,24 12:5,8

MBTA

71:8

Mckenzie

5:3

mean

20:1 22:3,12,14 30:7,8 36:15 39:16 42:5 43:3 44:11 53:3 58:12 64:13 65:22 67:22 72:8,16 75:21

means

52:20 53:3,22 62:9 66:12,13 76:22 80:22

meant

26:16 52:16

measures

7:1 77:16,24

mechanical 64:12,21

mechanicals

61:10,12 64:17

meeting

49:4 84:2

member 36:10

members 36:10,12

**memo** 5:8

mention 8:14 16:6

mentioned

78:2

mentioning

74:2

**merits** 37:14

method 48:20,22

methodology

5:5,9

**MHP** 4:16

microwave 30:11,23

middle

81:8

milestone

60:16

mind

12:17 51:11 53:5 75:23 83:22.23

minimize

76:22

minute

12:19 59:18

minutes 14:5

missing

17:16 33:20

misunderstanding

38:6

**mix** 73:12

73:12

**model** 30:21

moderate

16:22 17:2

modify 28:7

modifying 20:11

monitored 73:19

monitors 73:15

MORELLI

4:4 5:1,13 7:7,19 8:2,9, 18,21 9:3,23 11:5 12:10,13,18 15:5,12,16, 19,23 16:17 18:18,24 19:7,15 20:4 21:8 23:3 24:8,18 26:17 27:12,17 28:1 29:24 32:6 48:18 49:7 53:17 54:16,20 55:2,15 56:6 57:3,19 58:7 59:11 62:19,24 63:6,12 64:16,20,24 65:8 66:4,17,23 67:11 68:1 69:23 70:10,18,24 71:3,9,19 72:4 73:2,8,

17,24 75:19 77:14,20

78:2,8 79:3,18 80:4 84:1

# morning

3:15

#### move

26:12 40:21 60:21 74:14 80:11 83:12

### moves

58:18

# Moving

45:7

### multiple

25:22 31:18 36:6 40:3 46:19 54:8 58:12 59:21 64:1.18

### Ν

#### **N.2**

11:16

### name

3:4 16:1 21:10 81:22

### necessarily

37:18 49:21 67:3

#### necessary

4:21 26:5 37:1 41:14 45:13,16 47:6,7 77:5

# need

16:9 17:8 21:7 25:2 34:2,7,12,18 41:1,3,7 47:20 58:20 63:16 79:15 83:9

### needed

6:2,9

# needs

32:18,20 33:2 41:18 46:15 69:2,6 70:9 80:6

#### neighborhood

6:5 23:19 46:15 67:2 82:4

#### neighbors

53:6 65:22 67:9

#### never

12:17 21:6 53:5 67:7 83:22,23

### new

28:22

# night

43:8

### noise

53:7 59:5,8,15 60:17 61:3,8 64:8 65:3,24 66:5,7,16 67:3,10 68:12 78:16

# noisy

67:5

# noncompliance

28:22

# noncompliant

75:24

# nonfood

6:13 32:2

### nonintensive

29:14

# nonlegal

53:2

### nonresidential

49:24

# note

3:20 9:8,24 10:3 12:15 73:24

# noted

12:14

# notes

49:3

### notice

79:19

#### notification

70:2 74:18

# notion

29:7

### number

16:19 31:5 71:18 73:17, 18 77:20 79:23

### numbers

14:20

#### numerals

70:23

### 0

### 0.1

11:18 12:21

# objecting

44:1

### objection

44:23 45:5 67:11,13

# obligation

64:10

## obtain

3:18

# obvious

36:19

# obviously

80:6

### occupancy

6:13 32:3 58:4 59:3,6,9, 10 61:7,24 62:8 63:1,2 66:2 68:14 69:5

# occupied

6:24 63:3

### occur

6:19 47:17 82:18

# occurs

82:21

# October

17:20 27:20

# off-site

29:23

#### offers

5:19

# office

6:13,17 9:12 32:3 48:16 49:5 56:21 57:9

#### Ωh

8:12 9:23 28:17 31:17 57:3 71:23 74:24 78:7, 11

### okay

8:12,13 9:1,5,6 10:4,20 11:10 12:12,17,20 14:5, 19,24 15:20 16:7,17 17:19 18:1,13 19:18 20:10,17,21 26:13 27:17 28:17 29:4,10,14 30:16 31:4,5,17 32:9 33:4,6 36:21 41:5 42:10 48:6,12 49:17 51:13,24 52:7,16 53:15 58:3 63:21 66:23 69:19 71:9, 24 72:15,23 73:9 74:2, 6,17,22,24 75:7,15 76:10 77:14,15 78:7,10, 18 79:21 83:7 84:3

#### on-site

6:15 29:9 32:4

# once

3:12 6:1

# one-story

18:19 19:8 20:13 24:14

#### ones

44:24 54:12

### ongoing

16:21

#### online

60:18

### onus

67:9

### open

. 44:4 52:1

# opinion

25:19 39:20 69:2

# opinions

40:19

# opportunity

3:18

### opposed

22:16 38:12,15

## optimum

78:12

# option

. 50:24 51:17

# options

**5**1:3

# oral

26:19 27:11

#### order

35:4 37:1 40:2 45:18 46:14 60:6 65:2 78:12

# original

26:20 27:2

# Os

63:3,23 64:1

### out-ruled

82:10,16

outrageous

67:7

outside

51:3 52:22 82:21

outweigh

34:2,7 42:20 47:19

outweighs

34:9

overall

22:3

overbroad

31:1

owner

73:21

Ρ

P.1

11:20

**p.m.** 3:2 84:4

packet

4:20

page

9:19,22 14:14,24 21:21

paid

75:8

**Palermo** 

3:6 17:11,17 25:11,18, 23 26:4 36:17 38:5,10 40:11,13 41:4,21 45:21 47:3 52:5,8,14,18,22 53:14,16,20,24 55:6,21 61:13,20,23 63:13,24 64:6,23 66:11 80:17 83:14

paragraph

14:12,13,14 16:7,20 18:2 21:5 27:5,7 28:19 29:19 48:13,15,19 52:1 54:1,15,16 55:22,24 73:23 76:17 77:4

**parcel** 4:8,9

parcels

4:17

pardon

34:8

parentheses

77:1

park

51:15

parking

26:22 31:7,9 49:2,4,7 50:3,9,15,16,24 51:1,3, 8,10

PROCEEDINGS

part

16:7 20:15,17 21:1 23:17 35:7 41:9 45:17 64:10

particular

3:11 8:4 25:12 35:20 54:14 71:23

parties

25:22 31:18 36:6 40:3 45:12 52:24 64:18

**Partnership** 

4:6,12

passes

70:17 71:8

passive

53:11,15,16,19

Pat

3:22

Patrick

5:14 7:21

paved

77:9

pavement

77:2,13,22

pay

51:4,15

paying

50:19 51:14

pedestrians

27:24 **peep** 

43:23

peer

16:9 21:11

peeve

27:14

**PEL** 

44:21

people

3:8,17 9:16 34:5 35:4 48:20 52:19 53:10 66:7

percent

6:24 17:22,24 59:2 60:2 61:7,14 63:2,3,17,23 64:12 65:7,18,21 67:12, 17,18,22 69:16 72:7

percentage

59:9,17 72:2

perfectly

46:11

performance

56:11

period

29:24 55:9 73:18 81:2

permit

6:16,17 14:22,23 22:11 33:10 34:12 35:14 45:19 54:6 55:23 56:19 58:2,23 71:14 73:23 74:7 76:2 83:19

permitted

30:5

permitting 70:1

personally

42:23 46:11

perspective

22:2

pertain

81:11

pertaining

3:23

pertains

81:16

**pet** 27:14

photographs

77:9

phrase

18:4 19:10 52:12 53:2

pick

3:14

picked

5:24

picks

57:24 58:5

pickup

6:4

piece 63:22

piecemeal

68:4

place

58:18 66:1,21

plan

6:6 15:3,4,6,7,15,16,18, 22,24 16:2 71:17 73:4 74:9 75:2,4,18,20,22 76:3,8,13

planning

21:5 26:17

plans

4:7 5:17,19,21 14:21,23 16:15 27:21 28:7,8,10 51:7 54:7,8,10,11,13, 21,22 55:1,4,7,11,13, 14,16,19,20 73:1,4,5 75:2

plant 56:8

planting

56:5,8

players 33:16

please 5:18 36:18

plural

71:21 **plus** 

12:3 point

> 8:6 9:10 20:5,9 22:5 26:11 30:2 33:20 43:20 49:22 53:10,13 59:19

60:2,5,8,12 61:4 62:14, 22 63:10,11 64:13,21 66:6 67:18,19 69:4 78:10 79:11 80:10 81:19 82:12

# pointed

39:1

# portion

80:11,19,22

# position

43:17 46:21

# possibility

58:12 62:15,16

# possibly

62:5

### potential

37:16 42:20 61:3

#### **Poverman**

3:7 7:2,16,24 8:6,12,20 9:1,5,19 10:4,6 11:2,10, 24 12:3,7,12,17,20 14:10,14,19 15:9,21 16:4,18,24 17:9,15,19 19:5,9,18,22 20:10,17, 21 21:10,18,20 22:17, 24 23:5 24:2,16,23 25:3 26:1,13 27:4,9,19 28:2, 8,12,17 29:4 30:3 31:5, 17,21,23 32:10,13,15, 24 33:4,6 35:2 36:1,4, 14,18 37:22 38:3,8 39:14 40:7 42:15 44:7, 18 45:4,16 46:17 47:5, 18 48:6,9,11 49:2,10, 17,22 50:2,12 51:13,20, 24 54:1,4,17,24 55:22 56:3,14 57:11 58:1,22 59:12 60:8 65:16,19 66:22,24 69:11,21 70:20 71:10,13,20,23 72:15,23 73:9,14,18,22 74:2,5,15,24 75:4,7,15 76:17 77:15,21 78:7,10, 18 79:21 80:16 83:17,

### precedent

18:9

# predicate

41:15

preferred

6:3

# prefers

63:19,21

# preliminary

16:14

# premise

34:10

### preparation

29:9 30:14,20 31:2

PROCEEDINGS

### prepare

29:10 30:4

### prepared

6:15 29:23 32:4 43:1 57:1

### present

27:13 28:14

### presented

6:11 42:22

### presenting

75:22

# presents

27:23 28:14,16

# pretty

64:24

### previously

7:5 8:14

#### printout

8:23

### prior

54:5 56:18 58:12 62:6,7 64:9,13 65:13,20 74:6 76:2 77:6,11

#### pro

40:5 43:14,24

### problem

4:16 25:7 32:21 36:22 37:3 39:22 65:20

### problems

36:2

#### procedural

21:9

# procedurally

37:13,21

## proceedings

3:1 31:16 44:12 84:4

#### process

34:15 37:17 40:11 58:5 66:18 81:17 82:18,21

### producing

60:7

### production

30:1,12

## products

29:23 57:15,23

### professional

32:1

# program

16:21

### project

4:7,14,15,17 5:19 8:4 12:6 17:21 20:7 23:18 26:20 27:2 32:19 33:1, 16,23 35:8,13 37:6,8,10 38:2 39:13,23 41:17 42:18 43:8,11,19,23 44:2,8,16 45:1,9 46:7, 14 49:9 52:12,23 58:15, 19 59:4 60:15 67:16,20, 24 68:12 69:22,24 70:2 73:11,19 80:1 82:2,16

# promise

81:10,13

# promotes

17:3,10

### promoting

16:22 17:1 72:16

## pronounced

41:10

## properly

19:10

# properties

18:19 19:2,3,6 23:4,6,7, 10 24:9 27:1 70:5

# property

6:24

### proposed

5:17,23 6:15 8:3 44:1 55:24

# proposes

17:21

# proposing

43:5

# prospective

57:7,13,20

### protection

34:19 65:21 66:1 77:17 78:1

### provide

31:9 72:21 77:7 81:22

## provided

8:17 42:12 48:24 50:4 72:3 73:1

# provides

46:7

# providing

27:18,19 72:6

# provisions

70:14

### public

16:13 26:20 72:17 80:20,21 83:12 84:1

# pulling

67:23

# punctuation

17:11

# purposes

15:10

#### pursuant

56:1 59:5 75:9

#### purview

54:23 82:22

### put

14:20 15:6,23 25:16 28:9 29:24 32:24 34:21 46:22 47:1,3 55:9 66:13 67:9 81:8

# putting

33:9 70:20

Q

### Q.1

12:23

# quality

76:20

#### quest

#### question 65:9.19.24 66:17 75:3 relationship refer 7:2 30:8 37:13 40:11 81:9 18:17 22:10 55:13,14 39:10 49:14 58:24 59:1 61:4 56:12 relative rear 63:22 70:8.12 73:14 referenced 60:14 10:2 15:7,13 78:11 81:4,16 82:15 18:18 83:17 reason relatively 63:19 65:10 75:24 referencing 5:11 questions 19:3 9:17 14:7 reasonable relevant 40:21 46:11 76:22 referred 60:5 quiet 18:23 3:6 52:3,5,6,9,13 recall relied 3:8 referring 16:11 31:24 48:15,17 52:12 R receive relief 54:11 70:8 75:14 78:3 3:21 11:3 refers R.1 received remember 27:9 75:12 11:22 13:1 4:9 5:1 7:20 27:10 32:12 reflect racks reminder reciting 8:24 12:15 28:6 72:24 48:5 73:3 refreshments raise recommendation removal 30:4 9:16 47:11 59:19 3:23 56:1 7:4 regard raised recommendations remove 5:16 16:12 35:11 36:8,11 45:15 3:22 4:2 5:20 27:22 57:5 69:18 regarding 28:3,11,13 rate render 5:15 76:19 68:3 recommended 37:6 39:23 42:18 43:12 7:5 42:6 regardless 44:2 ratio 47:24 73:12 record rendering 3:20 4:19 5:10 27:13 regional 43:18 reached 44:10 55:20 34:2,7,18 34:16 renders recreation registered 44:24 read 53:12 70:5 4:19,21 5:10 15:9 19:10 20:7 27:12 57:19 recycling regular 50:8,10,14,17 51:2,6, 5:17 8:8 75:18 7:16 12,14,19 reader 21:12 red regulate rental 69:2 50:9 16:8 reads 31:8 redesign regulations rents 15:3 66:18,21 76:6 50:9,16 51:8 45:10 Ready 75:7 redesigned regulatory repeat 20:7 79:14,23,24 29:13 reaffirm 4:14 redline reinvent replacement 3:16 9:4 14:5 66:20 79:14,22 real 39:7 reduced related report 50:10 37:8 56:10 57:14,22 18:17 77:8 realistically 51:14 reduces relates reporter 50:15 75:10 64:19 really 17:18 18:20 23:12 redundancy relating reports 35:18 51:11 53:23 34:8 37:7,9 73:15

58:12 61:9 62:14 63:7

represent

46:2

representative

33:12

represented

33:14

representing

39:11

request

6:23 15:2,11 28:23

73:20

requests

3:9 28:23 80:8

require

6:16 7:9 57:13,21

required

57:15,23 66:3 72:18

75:8

requirement

67:23

requirements

6:22 10:2 59:22 64:8

66:16

requiring

71:7 72:17,21

residential

5:21 19:4,5,23 20:8 57:6 59:23,24 60:11

61:7 62:17 63:23

residents

26:19 32:17 52:10,22

76:23

respect

69:8

respectfully

26:5

respond

62:14

response

45:11,15

responsible

35:14

rest 40:18

restaurant

82:19

restaurants

30:1

restrictions

80:3

restrictive

24:11

retail

6:12,14 19:2,8,16,18 20:5,12 30:18 32:3 48:16 49:17 56:20 57:7,

13,21 60:14

review

3:13,14 40:5 43:14,22, 24 51:7 55:10 58:9

59:16 74:8 75:2,4 76:5

reviewed

3:9,10,11 4:13 5:19 9:10 38:19,20 42:4

54:6,19 75:17 79:16

reviewer

16:9,11 21:11,15 26:18

reviewing

75:23

reviews

6:18

revised

3:13 4:7 8:18

revisions

3:16

revisit

6:23

rid

74:9,12

right

9:23 11:6,12,13 12:7 14:2 19:9 21:18 23:5 26:11 28:18 29:4 30:24

32:1 41:6 43:2,21 48:7, 21 54:17,24 57:3 60:19,

22 61:9,10 63:4,6 64:5,

23 69:7 71:21 76:7,12, 16 80:13 82:1,13,23

83:2

rights 82:15 road

25:14

role

45:2 46:1 83:18

Roman

70:23

rooftop

61:10,12

rooms

6:20

round 43:22

**routes** 77:3,10

rubbish

5:17 6:2,20 75:18

rubbish/recycling

5:23 6:9 76:3

run

65:3.5 66:19

S

**S.1** 13:3

safety

16:13 27:23 28:14,16

74:6

sale

57:14,22

sales

29:8

sanitary

6:22

sanitation

75:21

satisfied

47:16

saying

22:16 24:11 36:5,15 43:14 44:13 48:8 53:23

55:7 63:2,14 65:1,22,23 72:4 73:2,8 76:9

says

12:7 14:15 16:7 17:13 34:21 39:19 40:5.6

71:15 74:18 76:1 77:2,6 80:1

schedule

76:4

Schneider

3:6 10:8,10,12,14,16, 18,20,22,24 11:11,15, 17,19,21,23 12:2,5,22, 24 13:2,4,6,8,10,12,14,

16,18,20,22,24 19:20 22:1,15 23:14 28:4,10,

15 29:16 30:6,13,16,24

31:4,11,19 33:3 35:22 37:12 38:9 40:1 41:14

43:1,16,21 44:11 45:2

47:1,8 48:23 49:19 50:1 51:22 52:4 53:4,9,18

56:2,7,22 57:8,18

60:12,19,22 61:9,22 63:16 65:6,14,17 67:15

68:17 69:13,17 71:22 72:20 74:12 76:7,12,16

78:22 80:15 81:21

82:14 83:2,12

scream 47:7

Seated

3:5

seating

82:10,16

seats

82:3,24

second 4:8 32:24 37:3 56:14

57:9 74:5 75:1 76:21 83:14

Second-to-last 56:7

section

5:6 31:13,14 75:13

**see** 25:15 29:20 38:7 42:16, 21 45:4,5,13 47:5,7

65:20 71:18 81:13

segregated

8:16

selectmen

57:10,11

	PROCEEDINGS	
selectmen's	24	
6:17 57:9	<b>shop's</b> 82:23	
sell		
29:22	shops	
send	82:10	
70:2	short	
sense	5:12	
48:9 74:10	shorthand	
<b>sent</b> 8:22	55:13	
-	shouldn't	
<b>sentence</b> 9:21 16:21 17:20 28:20	48:16 72:18	
32:24 36:23 37:3 42:8	showed 15:7	
47:14 55:5,24 71:16		
73:10 76:21	side 15:8,14 40:16 56:15	
separate 4:17 59:22 60:10,15	sidewalk	
82:17,21 83:3	82:16	
separately	sidewalks	
8:16	82:20	
Seriously	signal	
72:13	79:5	
serve	significant	
30:4	18:1 46:13	
services	significantly	
5:15	20:14	
<b>set</b>	simple	
51:8 80:1,2	34:13,14	
setback 20:9 27:2	simplify 69:14	
	00.1.1	
setting 11:11	simply 34:24 41:19 42:17 48:5	
Shade	61:6 63:14	
56:13	single	
Shaw	38:24	
81:18,23 82:23 83:5	single-	
She's	27:3	
25:13	single-family	
Sheen	7:23	
4:11 49:13 50:7,13,21 72:8,12 79:1	Singular 71:22	
sheets	sit	
14:20	23:19	
-1		

site

15:3,4,6,7,16,22,24

27:7 32:2 48:17 49:16. 16:10,13 18:2 19:11 19,24 50:10,16 51:3 20:22 21:3,14 26:21 31:7 45:11 51:4 52:2 52:1 56:21 57:2 59:23, 54:10 55:1 74:8 75:2,4 24 60:5,14 82:5,19 77:16,24 78:5,6 spaces 31:10 49:14,15 50:3 sitting 36:10,12 62:17,18 71:1 situation speaking 25:22 31:18 36:6 40:3 46:4 64:18 six-story 26:23 spec'd 7:9 8:2 size 60:13 specific 14:9 24:5 29:13 42:8 Sloat specifically 81:23 45:10 small-scale 24:22 25:1,3,6 26:24 specified 50:3 soft 29:8 specify 11:2,8 49:4 50:6 54:9 sole 71:20 29:9 specifying solely 54:21 72:22 49:8 52:10 spelled somebody 29:17 18:12 spirit someone's 36:23 51:14 splitting someplace 42:17 51:15 77:18 square sooner 14:15,16 61:2 62:5 68:14 69:5 staff sorry 32:16 12:13 57:8 73:17 76:9 79:21 81:21 stand 34:21 sort 18:8 25:9 30:17 33:8 start 41:23 45:21 58:5 72:18, 28:20 65:13 21 started sounds 71:16 64:14 78:13 starting source 28:20 45:8 73:9 81:1 state

southwestbound

56:15

space

6:14 32:4 81:19 82:1.4.

shop

6:22 37:9 69:24 76:19

state-

#### stated

11:5 27:16 31:6,7

#### statement

42:9.11 47:2

### states

11:6

### statute

40:6

# step

66:17

# steps

80:4

# stop

74:2

# storage

3:23 6:20

# stormwater

16:15

### story

19:14,17 20:5,6,8,16,20 21:2

# straight

31:13

### street

3:5 5:16 8:7 18:3,4,7 19:1,6,11,22 20:8,22 21:22 22:18,19,23 23:1, 2,4,6,8,11 24:7,17,22 25:1,4 26:14 27:1,20 28:15 36:9 56:1,5,16 60:1 62:16 75:10 78:3, 4,9 79:6 81:20,24 82:2, 13 83:13

### Street's

23:9

# streetscape

19:8

# string

17:1

### strong

19:8 38:22

# strongly

20:7

## structure

21:21 26:24

#### structures

19:13,19,20 20:1,13,16, 19 21:1

### stuff

60:7

# Sturbridge

33:12

# style

26:22

# styling

74:1

# stylistic

14:19

# subject

45:19 56:2 80:8

### submit

54:20 76:3

# submittals

27:15

# submitted

5:7 15:1 17:21

### **Subsection**

56:18

### subsidies

72:2,17

# subsidize

71:7

#### subsidizing

4:6 44:17 50:23 51:6,23 70:1 73:20 79:23

### subsidy

72:7,19,21

### substantive

29:2

# subtract

11:8

### suggest

53:1 80:9

### suggested

3:11 9:12 61:19

### suggestion

61:17 62:12 67:2 68:8 69:10

# suggestions

9:14

# summary

4:13

# superfluous

27:21 28:1.5

# **Superior**

39:6

### support

7:11 40:9,19 42:3

# supposed

47:13 53:11

# Supreme

39:6

#### sure

7:14 15:3 23:12 24:4 31:1 39:12 40:12 42:1 52:15 60:15 64:7,16 68:9 74:16 78:3,14 80:13 83:7

# surfaces

77:2,9,22

# survey

77:15,16,24 78:6,8

# swap

56:20

# sweets

82:7

# system

66:1

### Т

# **table** 40:17

# take

9:7 14:2,16 16:14 23:21 28:13 31:8 34:13 39:21 60:2 65:8,12 66:21 80:24

### taken

51:18

#### talk

22:2 36:7 40:15,18 43:3

# talked

18:24

# talking

17:15 19:1,7,16 20:4

22:8 24:13 54:5 61:10, 11,12 78:5 81:3

# talks

76:17

#### tall

18:19 19:14,17 20:13, 16,20 21:2

#### tandem

49:15

# TAP

70:13

# team

43:24

# technical

17:3

# tell

18:5 39:20

# telling 26:2

ten

# 14:4 tenant

50:19 51:3 62:1 81:14

### tenants

6:12 48:16 50:4 52:11 57:7,13,21 60:20,24 66:13 70:15 71:7 72:14

# tenants'

6:8

# term

18:7 29:13 32:20 52:8, 18

# terms

7:5 54:10,11 60:9 79:14,22 80:4

#### 4004

33:18,19 34:18 61:5 63:11 64:9,13 69:4

# tested

62:21 64:22 67:19

27:11 42:13 80:11 81:1

### testimony

testing 62:23

thank

4:22 9:6 14:1 27:4 28:17,18 31:21 79:9 81:15 84:3

### **Thanks**

9:5

# there's

12:18 24:19 26:2 37:23 40:4,5,7 50:22 51:9 64:1 65:9 78:4,8 82:1

### thereunder

56:11

# they'll

30:9 62:8

#### they're

7:22 14:8 35:19 60:6 61:15,21,24 62:2 63:14 66:5,8,9 75:22 82:6,9

# they've

4:9 82:8

# thing

40:22 51:23 70:19

### things

17:1,10 31:15 43:4 54:18 66:24 81:9

### think

5:12 7:14 17:11,17 18:6,11,15 19:10,21 21:6,9,11 22:7 23:3,9, 16,20,24 25:2 26:5,8, 10,12,15 27:21 28:4,5 29:6,16 31:3,11,12,13, 14,20 32:1 33:19 34:11 37:8,14,15,19,21 38:5, 24 39:8,17 41:8,12,22 42:3,11,14 44:8 45:21 46:17,19,21 47:8,9,13 51:22,23 52:20 53:9,22 57:4 58:20 59:19 62:13 64:2,6 65:6,14,21 66:3 67:9,15,16,17 69:1,11, 14 70:18 72:4,20 75:11 76:8,10,12 77:5 79:11 80:2,8,10 82:15

# thinking

60:13

### third

41:2 43:22 54:4 58:3

### **Thorndike**

81:23

# thought

22:4 82:12 83:6

# threat

64:7

#### three

28:20 45:8 50:3 56:18 71:15 77:1 79:24

# three-story

20:2

#### time

6:19 8:13 14:12 16:6 18:4 40:16 41:2 44:20, 21 82:3

#### times

46:19 67:7 76:22

# timing

61:13

### title

15:15

### titles

14:20

# today

3:21 5:1,3,8 12:11 14:4

# token

34:4

# tonight's

3:12

# topic

81:12,18

#### total

59:9 72:5

# totally

20:12 36:4,15

### toter

6:7

#### toters

5:22 6:3,10 7:4,13

#### town

4:5,11 9:11 16:8,21 18:10 19:12,23 20:23 32:16 35:15 39:11,12 46:2 51:22 56:10 59:5 66:19 68:12 71:17,18, 19,20 76:5 79:17 82:18

### town's

21:18 73:20

# townhouses

20:2

# traffic

16:9 77:12 79:5

#### transit

72:3

### transportation

71:17 72:17 77:8

### trash

3:23 7:8,12 8:5,9,15

### trash/rubbish

6:8

# treat

39:9

#### tree

56:13 75:11 77:17 78:1

#### trees

56:1,5 77:16,24 78:3,4, 5,6,9

### trial

38:10,11

# tried

46:5

# trigger

28:22 61:4

# triggers

60:9,10

# truck

77:10

# true

42:8 69:23

### try

24:1 46:2 57:20

#### trying

23:8 24:14 25:9 43:24 45:22 47:14 64:2 68:22 69:14,18

#### two

4:17 7:5 30:18 34:24 35:2,19 36:9 49:2 61:16 66:24 67:2 72:11,12 79:24

### two-family

21:4 27:3

two-page

4:18

# typical

52:8

### typically

43:4 70:14

# typo

79:21

# typology

26:23

# typos

14:10

#### U

# U.1

13:7

# Uh-huh

13:4 75:6

# ultimate

54:12

# unbuildable

44:3

# underneath

51:4

# underpinning

41:9 42:9

# understand

4:23 9:20 14:3 17:6 22:5 41:21 52:19 60:12 63:12 66:22 67:12

# understanding

9:9,18 50:8 72:6

# Understood

9:3

### uneconomic

33:24 37:6 38:2 39:23 42:19 43:12,19 44:3,6

## unintended

23:23

#### unit

50:14,16

#### units

17:22 42:20 57:6 65:5 68:2 73:10,13

unknown

33:15 violations 63:14 way 67:10 19:21 20:11 23:22 withholding update 24:17 25:20 34:23 39:4, 4:15 73:4,5 79:15 voice 63:7 9 42:15 44:12 50:7 38:6 updated 51:18 52:16 62:4 won't voiced 12:11,13,15 62:3.10 66:12 ways 46:19 upgrade 17:12 wondered 5:21 6:6 79:5 vote 82:7 we'll 80:8 3:18 9:4 26:6 73:7 84:1 wondering use 8:3 18:7 19:9 29:7,14 voted 22:6 we're 32:2 52:15 53:15,16,19 83:20 9:7 11:11 22:8 24:10, word 62:17,20 66:16 70:16 11,13 28:5 29:11 33:19 27:16 38:11.15.24 52:2 76:22 W 34:21 37:14,15 40:14, worded utility 15,17 41:13,19 43:14 51:18 50:15 45:23 46:22 47:12 48:5, W.1 8 54:5 61:9 63:2,3 wording 13:9 utilized 65:11,17 72:16,21 80:7, 23:23 70:15 Wait 18,19 83:19 words 32:10 36:17 we've 26:2 31:2 38:16 ٧ waiver 34:22 37:6 43:23 47:23 wordsmithing 3:13 9:7,15 28:23 66:5 55:4 70:13 81:3 83:18 23:22 26:6 valuable 80:8 weeds 63:7 work waivers 30:7 40:20 46:2,5,20 63:21 variance 3:9 12:15 15:2,3,4,6,11, week 9:15 16,21,22 34:5,6 79:13 working 8:15 49:10,11 78:12 variations waivers-key weekly 24:13 15:24 works 5:24 6:1 51:8 vendor want weighed 6:16 3:20 4:18,19 8:6 11:2 world 32:17 35:5 14:21 16:3 18:8 19:9 21:13 39:13 venting 20:3 22:18,19 23:10 weight 29:9 30:20 worried 29:14,15,18 30:24 43:9 38:18,19 verified 48:19,23 49:20 53:6,18 25:12,13 westbound 55:2,3 56:22 58:18 58:5,9 worry 56:15 60:10 62:19 63:8 65:24 23:21 version 66:3 67:9 70:11 71:4,5 what's 14:3 27:6 wouldn't 73:4,22 74:12,13 78:14 23:3 31:5 58:6 59:13 11:12 38:23 47:1,3 versions 79:3 80:13 81:9,19 Who's 51:16 59:16 82:14,20 74:20 49:10 written versus wanted wholly 4:4 10:2 68:6 79:9.11 26:19 27:15 59:23 82:21 82:11 83:5 wrong vestige wild 17:5 23:22 65:9 52:24 62:20,23 63:11 64:3,9, wrote Village 13,15,16 windows 8:10 33:11,13 18:11,14 19:13 20:24 54:18 wasn't violating 70:7 winter X 67:8 63:8 65:4 waste violation 8:1 **X.2** withhold 66:10 13:11

Υ

Y.1

13:13

yard

10:2 15:13,14

yards

15:8

yeah

19:7 24:23 29:4 49:1,22 52:20 55:17 56:3 58:19 69:21 73:24 74:16

year

59:15,16

years

33:11 39:18

you're

17:4,9 19:16 23:8 24:12 25:12 28:18 31:24 34:20 36:5 38:1 39:5 48:7 51:1 55:18 59:20, 21 61:11,12 63:6 67:23 78:3

you've

34:15 36:7 52:2

Ζ

**Z.1** 

13:15

zone

24:8

zoned

24:9 **zoning** 

5:6,13 17:3 22:12 25:20,21 28:22 38:17